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Tuesday January 16 1996

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The Guardian

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INTERNATIONAL
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
46,450

A country with no idea how or what to celebrate?

The millennium: do we care?

G2 with European weather

Education

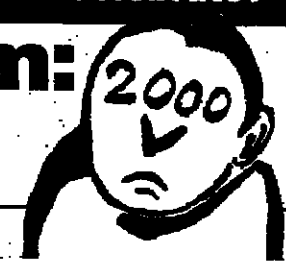
Mega-university move in Derby

G2 pages 10/11

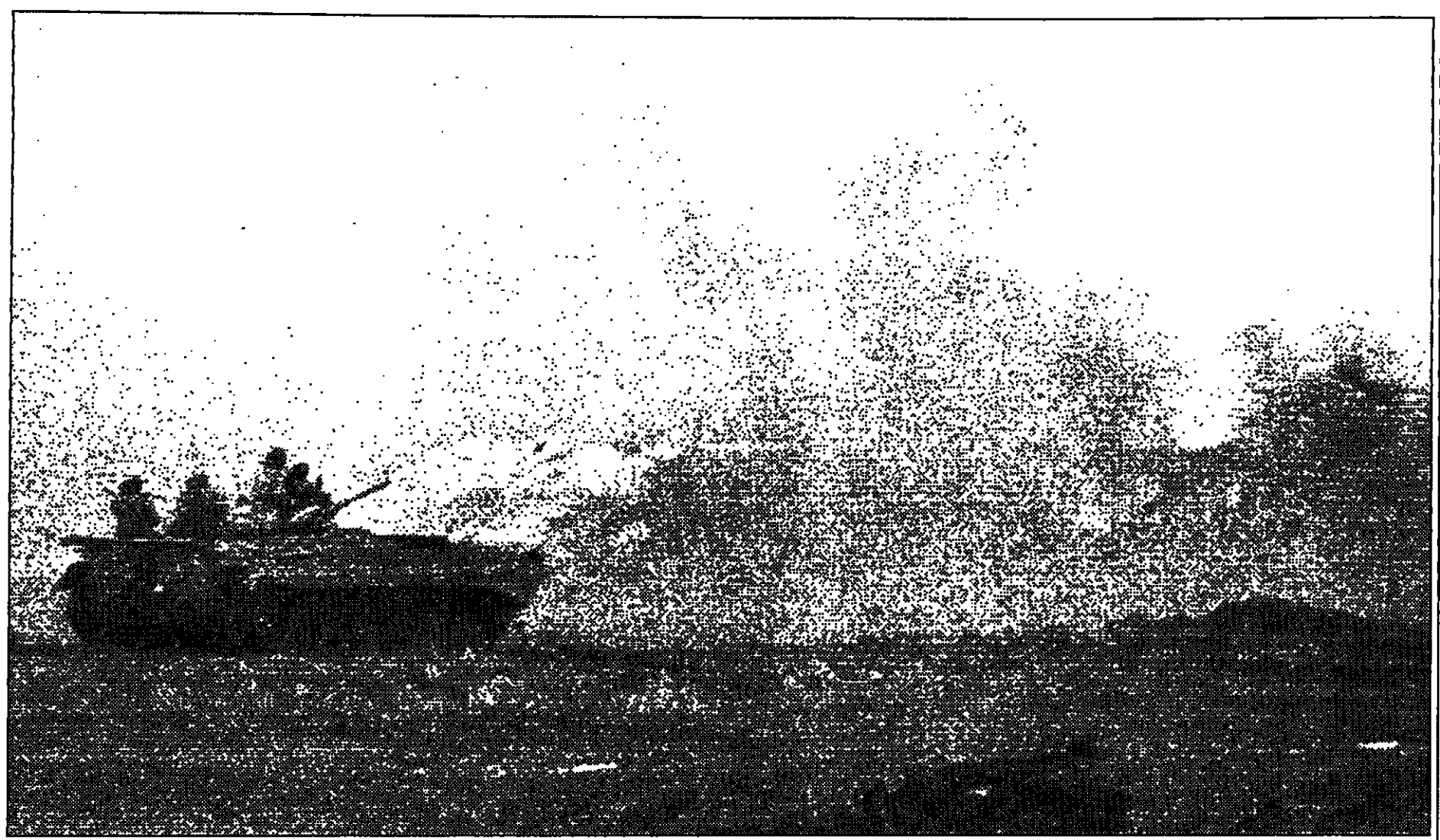
Almovodar's latest star

Marisa Paredes

G2 pages 8/9



Hostages die as street fighting follows bloody bombardment



A Russian tank closes on the burning village of Pervomayskaya, in Dagestan yesterday after heavy bombardment by helicopter gunships and artillery. PHOTOGRAPH: SERGEY CHIRKOV

'We'll wipe them out'

Yeltsin orders crushing of Chechen rebels

James Meek, near Pervomayskaya, Dagestan

Russian special forces and army units had reduced the Dagestan village of Pervomayskaya to blazing ruins last night as a day of artillery and aerial bombardment, and hand-to-hand fighting with besieged Chechen separatists drew to a bloody end.

The Russian attack was launched early yesterday after President Boris Yeltsin and his generals apparently placed the need to assert their authority ahead of the safety

of an estimated 100 hostages held captive by Chechens, led by the "Lone Wolf" Salman Raduyev.

Mr Yeltsin said he had no choice but to act since the Chechens had begun to shoot and hang the captives — a claim denied by Mr Raduyev. "We want the terrorists punished and wiped out," Mr Yeltsin said.

Last night, the Russian authorities claimed the battle was almost won. "Special interior ministry and state security service forces are subduing the fighters who are continuing to show resistance," an interior ministry statement said. Russian forces had formed a three-tier ring of steel around the vil-



lage to stop rebels leaving, it said.

Tass news agency quoted an interior ministry official, Alexander Zdanovich, as saying: "Scattered groups of fighters who have hidden in houses are being weeded out and wiped out."

Street fighting and bombing raged well after dark, as the Chechen rebels put up fierce resistance in the face of overwhelming odds. By nightfall, the Russians claimed to have killed 60 rebels and captured many more. Four Russians were dead and 14 injured, officials said.

But only nine of the hostages were reported to have been freed, with nothing known about the condition of those remaining inside the village.

One villager, Murat Daitbegov, aged 45, stood on a knoll, staring at the smoke and flames. "The action is very sad, but there was no way out. The decision was taken not to let the fighters out. There won't be anything left there now, that's clear. Of course the animals will be dead, too."

The Chechen leader, meanwhile, continued to voice defiance. He said in a radio broadcast heard in the Chechen capital, Grozny, that the Russian claim that hostages had been killed was false, and that he would fight on.

Before the onslaught, there were reported to be between 70 and 120 hostages, including women and children. Chechen strength was estimated at up to 250 fighters.

The ferocious bombardment, involving heavy artillery, helicopter-launched rockets and tank and cannon fire, began at 8am local time and continued till night fall.

Within minutes of the Russians opening up on the village with 122-millimetre field guns, houses and haystacks burned and the settlement billowed smoke.

Tracer bullets sailed into the sky and explosions rang out from points all around the village as the rebels fought back with automatic rifles, machineguns, rocket propelled grenades and "Mukha" hand-held anti-tank weapons.

We watched as a tank was immobilised, its turret

knocked away, then hit again. It began to burn fiercely. Helicopter gunships, known as "crocodiles", sprayed flares and wheeled and bobbed through the smoke.

The gunships began flying in huge circles across the plain. As they crossed overhead, they lined up on the town and unguided rockets hurled from pods under their wings, exploding into houses.

By early afternoon, every house on the south side of the village was burning, ruined or seriously damaged.

General Mikhail Barsukov, head of the Federal Security Service (FSS) and operation commander, claimed that before the bombardment, the Chechens had begun shooting at their forces and had killed two of the 57 Siberian interior ministry soldiers held prisoner.

There was no way of verifying his statement, and Mr Raduyev said in a radio message: "Not a single hostage was killed yesterday or today and we have no intention of killing them."

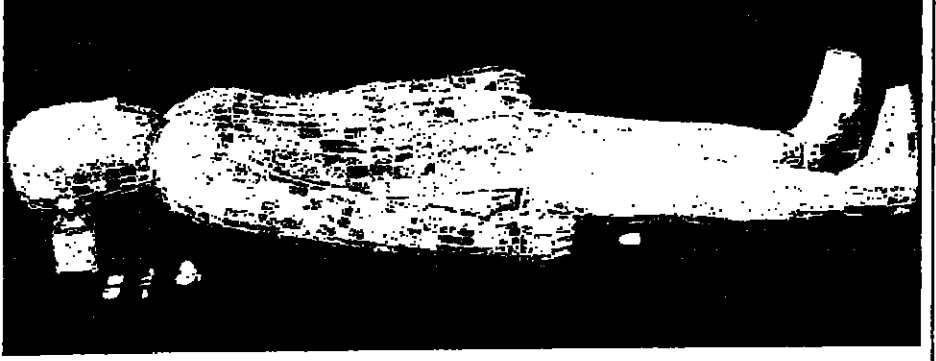
2,000 years on, Chinese bring to light the shroud of jade in which a king was buried

Edward Pilkington

CHINESE archaeologists yesterday claim to have unearthed one of the world's most magnificent antiquities, a shroud made from thousands of pieces of jade in which a king was buried more than 2,000 years ago.

The discovery was made deep inside Lion Mountain, near Xuzhou in eastern Jiangsu province. Archaeological workers had to clear 16 huge rocks, each weighing seven tonnes, which were intended to deter grave robbers.

Inside, at the end of a 70-metre tunnel 117 metres underground, they found hundreds of relics in gold, silver, copper and iron, as well as 175,000 ancient coins. More than 200 official seals were also retrieved, which



The jade and gold thread shroud of Liu Sheng which will be exhibited at the British Museum in September — outshone only by the latest discovery

researchers hope will divulge invaluable information on the period.

According to the Chinese Xinhua news agency, the tomb was built to honour Liu Wu, a king in the Chu region of China who ruled under the Western Han dy-

nasty (206BC-AD24) which unified the country. The king was interred around 174BC.

He was dressed in lavish funeral garments, including a belt bearing four large buttons. Each button is engraved with two bears

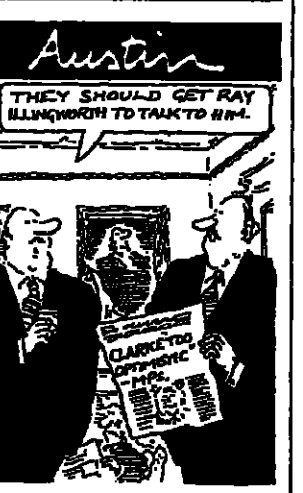
tearing at a galloping horse, a motif probably originating from Central Asia.

The most important find was Liu Wu's jade shroud, which an official of the Chinese State Bureau of Cultural Relics called "the finest

shroud ever excavated in the world." It consists of 4,000 wafer-thin plaques of jade, a stone which in ancient times was believed to bestow immortality, sewn together with gold thread and decorated with gold flowers.

Shelagh Vainker, of the Eastern art department at Oxford University's Ashmolean Museum, said similar jade burial suits had been found before and were spectacular. The best known is that of Prince Liu Sheng, also from the Western Han period, which was excavated in 1968 and will go on exhibition at the British Museum in September.

This is the second important excavation in eastern Jiangsu. About 600 metres from Liu Wu's tomb, two pits were uncovered 10 years ago containing 3,000 terracotta models of soldiers and horses.



THE Treasury select committee has attacked the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke's optimistic Budget forecasts, and accused the Government of "wishful thinking" about a housing upturn. *MPs attack optimism, page 3; Housing recovery 'mirage', page 11*

End to chains for pregnant prisoners

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

THE Prison Service is to drop its "inhumane and degrading" policy of shackling pregnant women inmates in the final hours before they give birth.

The decision, taken in the face of protests from doctors and midwives, child welfare experts and MPs, will be formally announced later this week. It follows 60 minutes of talks yesterday between the Royal College of Midwives and the acting head of the Prison Service.

The change in policy comes after accounts given by the mothers-to-be, including "Annette", who wrote to the Guardian describing how she was chained to the hospital bed and guarded by two prison officers while she was in the early stages of labour.

The disclosures of the humiliation and misery experienced by the chained pregnant prisoners sparked disbelief amongst MPs and the public that such practices could still be employed in the British prison system.

Details of an agreement between the acting head of the Prison Service, Richard Tilt, and the Royal College of Midwives president, Caroline Flint, are still to be finalised. But the agreement is expected to include a "more humane" definition of when a prisoner goes into labour and when chains should be removed.

It is also believed that prison officers will be instructed that they should maintain a guard outside the maternity ward once labour has started, and not remain behind a screen as is the present practice.

"We are discussing how we can give a more humane effect to this policy," said Mr Tilt yesterday.

The change in policy came as the prisons minister, Ann Widdecombe, was forced to take the unusual step of making a personal statement to the House of Commons to apologise to MPs for incor-

rectly claiming that the hospital at the centre of the row — the Whittington in London — had not voiced any concerns about the practice.

The minister said she had been wrongly advised by the Prison Service.

The Whittington had first protested about the policy as early as August 31 last year and had followed it up with numerous letters and phone calls to ministers and the prison authorities.

"I deeply regret that the advice which I had been given about this correspondence, and which I in turn gave to the House in all good faith, was wrong, and I offer my unreserved apology to the House," said Miss Widdecombe.

In the tradition of the Commons, MPs accepted the apology without immediate comment.

But Labour MPs complained that her "personal statement" should have been a ministerial announcement which would have allowed them to question her about the change in policy.

In its turn the Prison Service made a full apology to Miss Widdecombe, saying it only had two hours to provide the information before the Commons emergency question was debated last Tuesday.

The shadow home secretary, Jack Straw, last night said he had got the information in one short telephone call to the hospital.

One MP had particular reason to regard the apology ruefully. Alan Howarth, the former Conservative MP for Stratford upon Avon, had cited the refusal of ministers to reply to his letters last July over the policy of shackling women prisoners at Holloway as one of the reasons for his defection to Labour. Last October, the Home Secretary, ridiculed him in the Commons for suggesting that widened prisoners were being held in chains.

Commons sketch, page 2; Details, page 5

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by NICK DAWES

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Sketch

Getaways that lack conviction



Mark Lawson

THE theme of the day at Westminster was wacky escapes. During Transport Questions, David Shaw (C. Dover) sought ministerial praise for an exercise conducted in his constituency on Saturday. In a safety drill, 845 passengers had been evacuated from a ferry ship within 65 minutes.

that safety demonstrations were effectively useless because of considerations of safety—appropriately gave way to a real-life emergency situation of a political kind.

She had sought leave from the Speaker to make a personal statement to the House. These mea culpas have traditionally featured sexual exorcisms or decisions to depart the government.

In a probably unconscious parody of government prison policy, Ms Widdowcombe arrived with a heavy escort. As she waited on the front-bench for preceding business to finish, Michael Howard, her boss at the Home Office, sat on her left, like a jailer.

The Speaker's chair, with his legs stretched across the aisle, as if to prevent Ms Widdowcombe doing a runner, had she thought of it. By tradition, a personal statement is heard in silence without follow-up questions.

The Speaker moved business on. Labour's Alan Williams and Tam Dalyell tried to press the case that the subject still had been suited to a ministerial statement—allowing exploration by the opposition—than a personal one.

As safety demonstrations go, it was impeccable. A minister had been helped to safety in the minutes that observers still wondered, however, if the exercise had been carried out under appropriate conditions of risk.

First night

Letting his fingers do the talking

Andrew Clements

Marc-André Hamelin Wigmore Hall

LISZT may be part of the grand romantic piano tradition, but apart from the B minor Sonata in the concert hall nowadays his music is usually the province of specialists.

The French-Canadian, Marc-André Hamelin, has an impressively wide repertory, but his reputation is founded upon the school of keyboard virtuosity that has Liszt as its centre of gravity. His recital to a packed Wigmore Hall was devoted entirely to Liszt, an elegantly planned collection that surveyed just about every facet of his output.

Other pianists might generate more noise in some of this

music—he never overwhelms you with torrents of tone... but every chord and every detail that goes into creating these massive complexes of sound is perfectly audible. Above all Hamelin's playing is informed by acute musicianship.

The velvet smoothness with which he unfurled the first of the Apparitions from 1834 and Un Sospiro, the third of the three Concert Studies of 14 years later, seemed effortless, while three late miniatures—the relatively familiar Nuptial Chorus and the second of the La Lugubre Gondola pieces with an exquisite ephemeral rarity called En Réve—showed that even when Liszt had stripped away the showmanship and begun to explore uncharted musical territory, Hamelin was still a poetic and trustworthy guide.

The showpieces brought the loudest applause. The group of Rhapsodies showed Hamelin is as capable of milking a keyboard trick as the most unashamed showman. Don Juan too was attacked head on, though by then tiredness had begun to produce a smattering of wrong notes; that they came as such a shock was a tribute to Hamelin's astounding facility.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

Government inquiry reveals that suicide toll dwarfs the number of killings by psychiatric patients

Alarm over suicide rate

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

THE SUICIDE rate among mentally ill people is running at more than two a day, according to figures collected by a government inquiry which today adds to the growing clamour for action to improve care in the community.

The toll dwarfs the number of killings by psychiatric patients, putting into stark perspective the public fear of random homicide by the mentally ill.

Of 39 killings investigated by the inquiry, almost two in three involved deaths of members of the same family. Only three involved the death of a stranger.

The inquiry concludes: "In spite of understandable concern about murders committed by people in the care of psychiatric services, whether in hospital or in the community, it is important to maintain some sense of proportion between the numbers involved and the total number of homicides."

The "confidential inquiry into homicides and suicides by mentally ill people" was set up by the Department of Health in 1992. Its interim report on homicide, published in 1994, investigated 23 killings.

Today's full report considers those 23 and 17 others from July 1992 to January 1994, and September 1994 to March 1995—a total period of 24 months—although it does not pretend to be exhaustive.

By contrast, the report investigates 240 suicides during the 18 months from June 1993 to December 1994, although the inquiry team has received preliminary details of up to 950 mentally ill people "thought to have killed themselves" during the 28 months between June 1993 and October 1995.

The report says the team received such preliminary details of 74 cases in the first 10 months of last year alone. However, these figures represent only England, and cases continue to be reported, indicating the suicide rate among the mentally ill in Britain is well above two a day.

Although the report is pressing for improvements in care in the community, the team says: "It is striking that in many cases respondents felt the death could not have been avoided by any measure which might have been adopted by the clinical team or psychiatric service."

The team, which is continuing its work, looked at deaths of, or involving, patients receiving specialist psychiatric care or within a year of discharge from it.

Of the 240 suicides investigated, 53 were in-patients, 154 out-patients, and 33 patients discharged within the previous year. Almost two in three were men, almost half were unemployed, and almost one in 10 was black or Asian.

Of the 39 homicides, two were carried out by in-patients, 36 by patients "in touch" with community psychiatric units, and one by a patient discharged within the previous year.

Sixteen of the perpetrators suffered schizophrenia, 19 had been in-patients and 16 had received specialist social work support. Of the out-patients, fewer than half had been given a care plan in line with the "care programme approach" which was supposed to have been introduced in 1991.

The report, by an independent team under William Boyd, consultant psychiatrist at the Royal Edinburgh hospital, does not pin the blame for care failings directly on shortage of resources. Of the 154 out-patient suicides, for example, only one was a person awaiting a hospital bed.

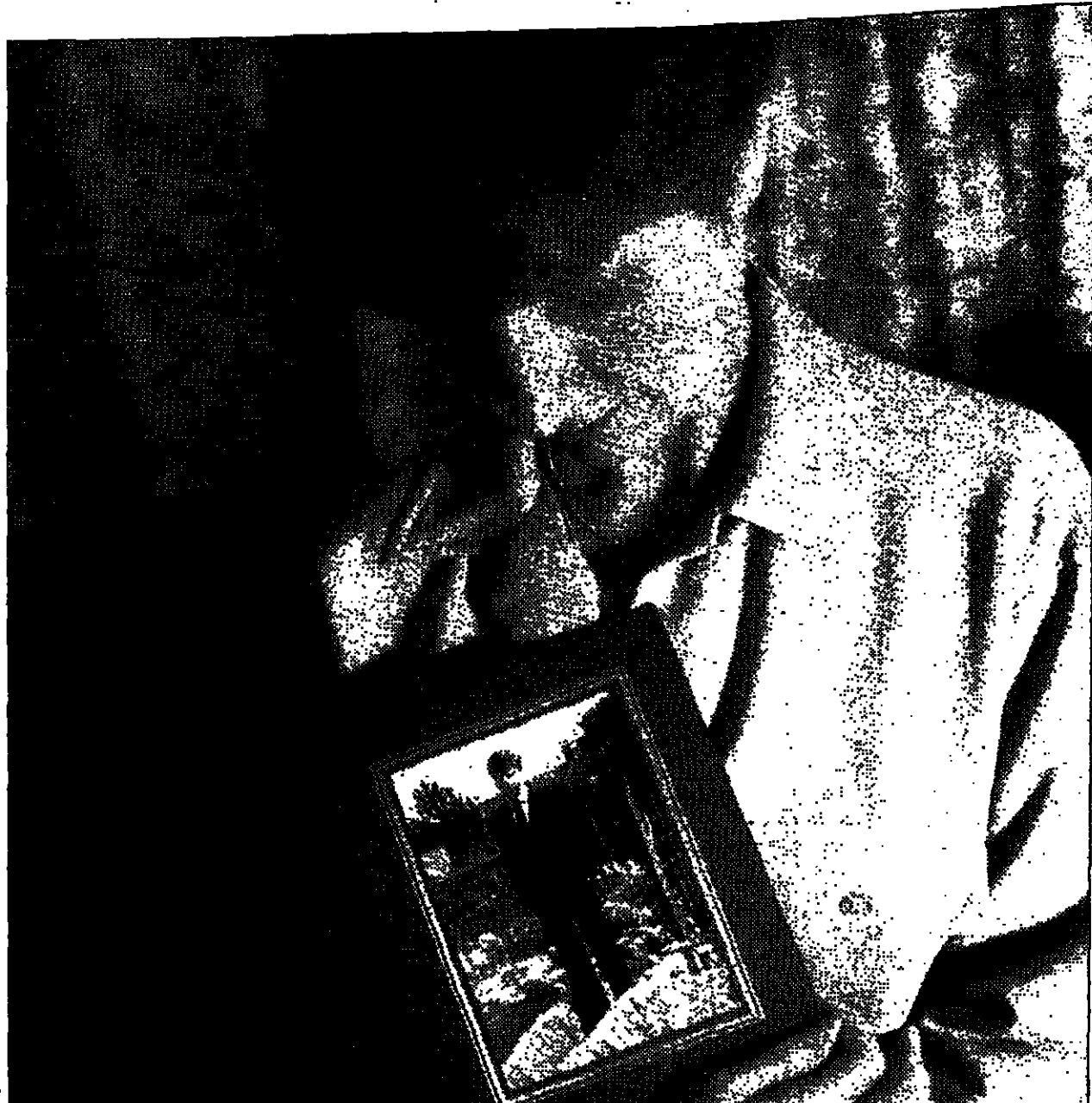
However, the team calls for greater concentration of resources on the care of severely mentally ill, improved communication among health and social care workers, and better staff training and greater use of existing legal powers to supervise patients at risk.

Accepting that there can be no return to the policy of keeping people in hospital for life, the team says high quality care in the community will usually prove more costly. But it warns: "The degree of close observation previously available in a well-staffed psychiatric ward cannot be extended to the care of a patient living at home."

John Bowis, junior health minister responsible for mental health policy, said the inquiry had shown there was no evidence of an increase in the number of homicides or suicides among the mentally ill. The report nevertheless contained much of value, he added. "It shows, for example, that a significant factor is refusal by patients to comply with treatment."

Alan Milburn, a shadow health minister, demanded an emergency plan to "rescue mental health" and avoid further tragedies. He called for a halt to psychiatric bed closures, immediate implementation of the care programme approach, action on staff shortages, and changes to the mental health funding formula to help areas most in need.

Report of the Confidential Inquiry into Homicides and Suicides by Mentally-ill People: PO Box 1515, London SW1X 9PL, £10.



Patricia Green holding a picture of her son Adrian, who jumped off a block of flats at the age of 23. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

'He just looked so lonely in the hospital... It was a case of giving him the drugs and leaving him to struggle on his own'

Sarah Bosley

TWO years on, Patricia Green still sobs whenever she tells the story of her son, Adrian, who jumped to his death from a block of flats aged 23.

"He didn't get the help he needed. It could happen to anybody," she feels that with more understanding, care and attention, Adrian would still be alive.

He was a "lovely boy" who won an apprenticeship with Mercedes Benz, but lost the job. In April 1990, aged 19, he took 40 paracetamol tablets in a first suicide attempt.

He began getting delusions. In October 1990, a consultant psychiatrist told Patricia and Ronald Green their son had schizophrenia. "He told us one in three recovered, but never really explained anything." By

February 1991, Adrian was threatening to shoot his mother, then he attacked his father. "He was hallucinating. All I did was panic and call the police. The poor lad was held in remand [for three months]."

Eventually, he was moved to an open ward at the West Middlesex hospital. Under medication, Adrian went to a special hostel in November, but by February 1992 he was back in hospital. He went home for a while, then back to the hostel but was thrown out for smoking marijuana.

At the hospital, a social worker found him bed and breakfast accommodation. It so upset him he threatened to kill himself if he had to sleep in such a place again. The Ombudsman upheld the

Greens' complaint against the hostel.

Adrian was not considered ill enough to be in hospital, but when he was given a council flat near his parents in Isleworth, west London, he stopped taking his medicine and his mental state deteriorated.

He was taken back into hospital in December 1993. On a visit in January, Mrs Green said, "he looked so lonely. It was a case of giving him the drugs and leaving him to struggle". On January 12, 1994, he jumped off the top of a block of flats. The inquest recorded an open verdict. "It has been one catastrophe after another. There wasn't anybody to care for him. I felt they didn't understand what they were dealing with."

Asian clan's 'modest' wedding draws 10,000

Suzanne Goldenberg in Bombay

THE celebrations were not overly extravagant—if you leave aside a guest list of 10,000. But last night's wedding in Bombay of three sons of Britain's wealthiest Asian family, the Hindujas, became a show of homage to the clan's power and influence in their city of origin.



The Hinduja brothers ride in state to their triple wedding. PHOTOGRAPH: SHERWIN CRASTO

arrival of politicians, and congratulatory messages poured in from around India. There was one from the mayor of Hounslow, too.

For a family known for its residence, the weddings of Ajay, Ramkrishan and Dheeraj were an occasion to exhibit the combined force of the far-flung clan.

The Indian home minister, S.B. Chavan, and two ministers from the prime minister's office turned up, along with the chief minister of Maharashtra state, Manohar Joshi, and a slew of retired politicians, judges and industrialists—both Indian and foreign.

For the benefit of guests, who entered through a grotto meant to represent the Himalayan homes of the Indian gods and then disappeared into the lush, vast lawns of the Royal Western Indian Turf Club, the announcers explained the elaborate Vedic rituals being conducted under the three matching mandaps, or wedding canopies.

The hour-long ceremonies were shown simultaneously on a giant screen, several cameras cutting between the couples.

The family's lives and fortunes are closely intertwined, but its members are scattered far beyond their city of origin. The head of the family, Srichand Hinduja, aged 60, and his brother Gopichand, aged 55, are based in London, where net assets are estimated at \$900 million.

They trade oil in the United States and the Middle East, manufacture lorries and buses in India, own banks in Switzerland and Bombay—and will soon, they hope, open a bank in Britain. They are in power stations, telecommunications and the media, too.

But last night's triple wedding of the next generation was partly to make an émigré point about Bombay: "This has been our parental home from 1914," said Srichand, who works from the head office of the family's British company, Sangam Ltd. in the Haymarket.

"We have been coming in and out. It doesn't mean we haven't been in India." The three bridegrooms are the first sons of their generation to get married. Ajay and Ramkrishan, the sons of the

third, Geneva-based, brother Prakash, and Dheeraj, the son of the London-based Gopichand, have already taken their places in the empire.

But the ceremonies did not mean neglecting the everyday affairs that made the dynasty what it is. Yesterday was a working day at Hinduja House, a relatively modest five-storey building that is the Hinduja Group's Bombay headquarters.

Executives scurried in and out before taking their places on the receiving line, while Srichand was trying the knot in a deal with Lufthansa for an international cargo airline minutes before festivities started. "So you can say it's the fourth wedding of the day," a Hinduja spokesman said.

Despite the official devotion to tradition—the Vedic ritual, vegetarian wedding supper and absence of alcohol—change has a way of intruding. In 1992, Srichand lost his only son, Dharam, in tragic circumstances. Dharam, aged 22, burned himself alive in a suicide pact with his Anglo-Indian bride in Mauritius, months after they married in defiance of their families.

Only one of last night's marriages was arranged: Ajay's. Ramkrishan and Dheeraj chose their own brides.

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سكناف الاصل

Guardian Tuesday January 16 1996
by psychiatric patients
rate



Away in a bit of hay... A 19th century view of the shepherds viewing the baby Jesus

<p>Authorised King James Version</p> <p>The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:</p> <p>Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled</p> <p>Give us this day our daily bread Thou shalt not commit adultery</p> <p>Out manger, crucifixion, righteous, grace, redemption, adultery, Bible, ark</p>	<p>Contemporary English Version</p> <p>You, Lord are my shepherd, I will never be in need You let me rest in fields of green grass.</p> <p>God blesses those people who depend only on him. They belong to the kingdom of heaven.... God blesses those people who want to obey him more than to eat or drink. They will be given what they want.</p> <p>Give us our food for today. Be faithful in marriage</p> <p>In bed of hay, nailed to the cross, really kind, posit, some</p>
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Action-packed Bible's graceless prose for TV era drops the ark and the manger



Barclay Newman... Bible without 'theological jargon'



Chat on a hummock... German artist Joseph Kronheim's print of the sermon on the mount

Madeleine Bunting
Religious Affairs Editor

JESUS'S manger, Noah's ark, and God's grace are among hundreds of Biblical references consigned to history in a controversial new edition of the Scriptures.

Some of the most familiar and much loved passages and phrases of the Bible — or "God's promise for the people of today" as it is renamed — are barely recognisable in the Contemporary English Version published by the Bible Society.

More than a hundred American biblical scholars spent 10 years reworking the beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount, the Ten Commandments, the Lord is my shepherd, and the Lord's Prayer into what they say is more accessible language. Critics say the result is banal and threatens its theological meaning.

The Contemporary English Version (CEV) is the first English Bible to translate the Old Testament book of Leviticus. The Authorised King James Version preferred "flesh" and "issue of flesh", and the Revised Version referred to "private parts".

The CEV claims to be the Bible for a generation raised on television. The gospel of St Mark is described as "action-packed". The snake of Genesis is "sneaky", and boat is substituted for the ark. Crucifixion is replaced with "nailed to the cross".

Christian theology, such as righteousness, grace, redemption and repentance, have been removed. God of righteousness becomes God "is really kind" — yesterday dismissed by the Ven George Austin, the Archbishop of York, as the "soppy" language of End Blayton.

The Rev Barclay Newman, the American Baptist minister who led the team of revisers, said "grace" is understood as a feminine attribute and used to refer to Jackie Onassis and Audrey Hepburn, so it was replaced with "unmerited favour".

Dr Newman says the CEV is accessible to a new generation with no experience of the Bible and its "theological jargon".

More people hear the Bible than read it, and our text enables person to read it aloud without stumbling," he said. "Unlike many modern translations, the CEV attempts to preserve the poetry of the original Hebrew."

But Archbishop Austin said there was a real danger of losing phrases which were part of our heritage. "We mustn't lose that which is so familiar that anything else sounds bizarre. What's wrong with 'The Lord is my shepherd as it is'?"

Rev Phillip Hacking of Reform, the evangelical grouping in the Church of England's General Synod, said "In the process of modernising the English, it should not be denuded of theological content."

Dr Newman admits that replacing "manger" in the story of Jesus's birth prompted misgivings: "Many contemporary readers didn't know what a manger was. We decided to use 'feed box' but people in high positions said you couldn't have Christ in a feedbox or 'Away in a Feed box'; we compromised on a 'bed of hay'."

He was also nervous approaching the 23rd Psalm. "It's beautiful. I would have been happier leaving it alone but it doesn't make sense; 'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want'. What don't you want? The Lord?"

The CEV is due to be published in Britain in March and the Bible Society is planning to sell or give away at evangelist's rallies 10 million copies over the next 10 years. It was published in the US last year and has sold several million copies.

There are more than 40 translations of the Bible in English. Last year a gender-inclusive New Testament, a Mills and Boon style "Book of God" and "Bible Chronicles" in colloquial black street language were published to choruses of disapproval.

Miners win High Court battle

Judge's ruling on 'dead hand' likely to lead to 100,000 claims

Martin Wainwright and Seumas Milne

BITISH Coal faces an avalanche of industrial disease compensation bills, which could run into hundreds of millions of pounds, after a landmark ruling in the High Court yesterday.

The Government, owner of what is now a shell company, will pick up the bill.

A judge's decision that British Coal failed to monitor Vibration White Finger — a condition caused by long-term use of vibrating machinery — is likely to lead to more than 100,000 claims by miners.

Fall-out from the decision could also affect manufacturing, farming and the forestry business where drills, pneumatic picks and similar equipment are regularly used.



The former miners wait for the High Court judgment over Vibration White Finger

The ruling was hailed as a "tremendous victory" by Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, which largely funded the test action by nine former miners from the North-east. "We are advising past and present members to get in touch with their local NUM office," Mr Scargill said.

He claimed up to £500 million of damages could be involved.

Vibration White Finger, also known as "dead hand", involves a gradual draining of blood supply to the hands, leading to nerve damage, loss of sensation, and acute pain during intermittent attacks.

The three-month test case — the most thorough study of

the disease, first recognised by an Italian company in 1911 — ended when Judge John Stephenson found that British Coal had failed to keep informed about the condition or take proper steps to prevent it.

He told the High Court sitting in Newcastle that British Coal — in charge of the coal industry until privatisation a year ago — had carried out only an "inadequate and criticised survey, and ought to have realised by the mid-1970s that tools used in the mining industry carried a foreseeable risk."

Papers revealed in the case showed the National Coal Board (BC's predecessor) knew about the dangers of using vibrating tools in the early 1950s.

The corporation, which is now a shell company selling its portfolio of land and buildings, is expected to appeal against the decision, delaying any compensation payouts.

A spokesman said the legal battle had been justified, because the judge had rejected the miners' claim that action should have been taken by 1969, instead deciding the earliest date should be 1975.

MPs attack Clarke's Budget optimism

Richard Thomas

THE all-party Treasury select committee yesterday launched a broadside against the Chancellor's optimistic Budget forecasts, saying the economy is set to slow down sharply this year.

The report predicts a weak recovery in housing and poor investment and export prospects. It argues that the 3 per cent growth forecast is unsustainable without aggressive cuts in interest rates.

It takes the governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, to task for his continued anti-inflationary stance, amid indications of a foundering economy.

The report comes hard on the heels of evidence of a stalling German economy and ahead of this weekend's meeting of finance ministers from the leading seven industrial countries, who will discuss ways of heading off a world recession.

The committee, headed by a Conservative MP, Sir Thomas Arnold, delights Labour with its blunt attack on the credibility of the Government's economic skills at a time when party managers are attempting to talk up their economic prowess.

The MPs said they were unconvinced by the forecast of an 8 per cent rise in exports this year and sceptical about a projected 9 per cent increase in business investment.

The report also said the

chances of public finances moving out of the red by the end of the decade had worsened, after the Government raised its forecast deficit for 1995/6 by about £7 billion to £29 billion after tax revenues came in lower than forecast.

"The slippage in the forecast for public borrowing is perhaps the biggest disappointment in the Budget," the report says.

The shadow chief secretary, Andrew Smith, seized on the report as a "damning indictment" of the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke's management of the economy. But William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said the Government's rosy outlook was justified.

Speaking at the beginning of the House of Commons debate on the finance bill — which puts the Budget measures on the statute book — he said: "A number of surveys now show that the Chancellor's view about the growth of consumer spending and the economy this year look more and more justified."

City dealers welcomed the committee's scepticism over the Treasury's forecasts — which most economists have criticised, but there was surprise at the venom in the committee's attack on Mr George.

The MPs report says the governor, who called for rates to be raised last year despite growing evidence of economic slowdown, had been systematically over-optimistic about the risks of inflation.

It adds: "For one participant to maintain that his view is correct when it becomes apparent that he has misjudged the significance of attached to certain indicators, will not enhance his credibility or that of the institution which he represents."

Mr George meets Mr Clarke today to discuss monetary policy. Although there were further signs from manufacturing yesterday that price pressures are easing, most commentators are expecting base rates to be left on hold at 6.5 per cent after a 0.25 percentage point cut last month.

But the money markets are expecting the cost of borrowing to be trimmed before the spring, especially if unemployment figures tomorrow show the pace of economic growth continuing to slacken.

The construction industry yesterday called on Mr Clarke to loosen monetary policy to get the housing market off the ground. The Treasury Committee said he was guilty of wishful thinking on the prospects for a rebound in property values.

Tory left launches attack in Commons on Lady Thatcher's onslaught

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

DAVID Hunt, the pro-European former cabinet minister, yesterday led the Tory left in a co-ordinated Commons counter-attack against Lady Thatcher's onslaught on One Nation Conservatism.

Mr Hunt, president of the

Tory Reform Group, insisted that One Nation Toryism was "completely fundamental" to the party's beliefs, and was enthusiastically backed by Tim Yeo, the former environment minister, and Quentin Davis, a prominent backbench member of the left of centre Macleod Group.

Their intervention, during the opening stages of the

debate, suggests that John Major's business managers have yet to dampen the Tory civil war.

Mr Hunt opened his speech, defending the Budget, by reading a lengthy extract from Disraeli's Sybil denouncing Two Nation Britain, before he insisted that full employment was fundamental to the Tory's commitment to the social fabric.

Referring to Lady Thatcher's anti-One Nation speech, he said: "Voices from the extreme left and indeed from the right may urge us to sidetrack, to move away from One Nation policies but we must remain true to our longstanding beliefs."

He went on: "One Nation Toryism is fundamental to

Conservatism. The spirit of One Nation Toryism is as strong in the Tory Party today as it has ever been and the centre ground is our territory. It is the territory where we have won successive general elections under Lady Thatcher and under the Prime Minister and we must never surrender our election-winning strategy."

The report also said the

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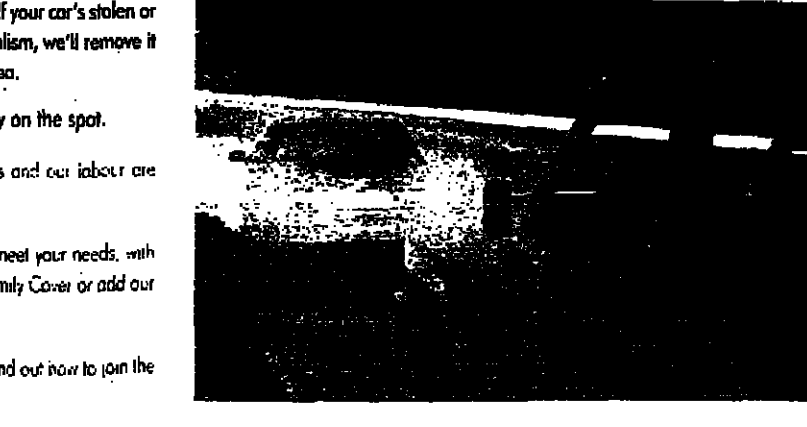
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Sir Ron Dearing calls for action in schools to combat breakdown of civilised values

Government education adviser seeks moral crusade in schools



Sir Ron Dearing, who urged a 'rage against violence'

Donald MacLeod
Education Correspondent

A NATIONAL forum to draw up a "mission statement" for schools is to be set up amid concern that children are not being taught basic moral values.

Sir Ron Dearing, the Government's chief curriculum adviser, yesterday backed the crusade, calling for a "sense of rage" against escalating violence and the breakdown of civilised values.

The forum — drawn from churches, other faiths, business and education — will be run by his Schools Curriculum and Assessment Authority, and will advise ministers on what schools should be doing to nurture moral values.

Teachers were yesterday largely scornful of the proposals, arguing schools were

under intense pressure to deliver the national curriculum. Speaking at a conference organised by the authority, Sir Ron said civilisation was taken for granted but the invisible bonds that reinforced respect for each other in a stable society were being dissolved. Women were afraid to walk alone and parents were worried their children would be abducted. "We need a sense of shared rage about what is happening," he said, adding that schools in partnership with parents could renew civilisation.

The conference was told by Nick Tate, the authority's chief executive, that schools were so anxious not to impose their views or offend parents that they presented all moral questions as relative with no clear right and wrong choices.

"In our desire to respect the views of others and explain

past faults ... we appear to have overreacted." He proposed a national forum representing the churches and other faiths, business and education, to draw up a plan to help schools carry out this moral mission. "It could produce a statement of values, a code of morals — the sort of thing we think schools should be doing on behalf of society."

Dr Tate said previous societies had "mission statements" which spelled out clear views about what was right and what children should be taught.

Dr Tate and Sir Ron join a long line of reformers who have sought to promote morality through education — from John Knox who urged a school in every Scottish parish to spread the Gospel, to Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans, to Thomas Arnold, the Victorian headmaster who led the 19th-century public school

reforms to promote "religious and moral principle" and "gentlemanly conduct".

Under the current national curriculum all children receive personal and social education (PSE), which is meant to cover a wide range of topics from sex education and personal relationships to career options.

PSE has a low priority in most schools and many pupils regard it as a waste of time. Schools are also required to teach religious education, covering six main religions, although more time will be devoted to Christianity.

Other topics, such as education for citizenship, are supposed to be treated as "cross-curricular themes" and dealt with as part of several subjects. In practice schools remain confused about how to do this.

Few ready to teach 'right from wrong'

Donald MacLeod

YOUNG teachers have a horror of imposing the Government's curriculum advisers want to see in the classroom, a national education conference heard yesterday.

A survey of student teachers found they were suspicious of promoting citizenship or concepts like the "common good", unlike their counterparts in Europe who

felt a duty to promote moral and spiritual teaching as indoctrination.

Madeleine Arnot, of Cambridge university's department of education, said trainee secondary teachers when asked to define a "good citizen" offered replies ranging from "a middle-aged balding fellow with a nice garden and a semi-detached house" to someone who wore a bowler hat or played cricket, to "exceptionally boring".

She told the conference on Education for Adult Life that

student teachers regarded moral and spiritual teaching as indoctrination.

They did not want to impose "ethnocentric" values or tackle issues that might conflict with parents' views.

"I do not want to get involved in causing trouble," said one.

Less than 10 per cent of student teachers said they would feel confident teaching about family life, working life or public life and were confused about the term "education for

citizenship". One commented: "I think as soon as you try to thrust things on people they rebel and I think it would be seen as a Mickey Mouse subject to be honest."

Passengers who are practising churchgoers feel their life has more purpose and are less likely to consider suicide than non-believers, according to a survey reported to yesterday's conference by Leslie Francis, of Trinity College, Carmarthen.

Among the 30,000 13 to 15-

year-olds questioned, practising believers had more positive attitudes to school and were less likely to approve of truancy or graffiti. They were more likely than non-believers or believers who did not attend church to disapprove of sex outside marriage, but were equally tolerant of homosexuality.

"Religious belief and church membership exert a strong influence on promoting respect for law and order," Dr Francis said.



Sitting it out ... a Newbury protester makes her point

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Chain reaction puts bypass gains in reverse

Newbury
Protest update

Key

- 1 Enborne Road. Attempts to cut trees are foiled.
- 2 Great Fen Wood. Trees cut. One arrest for assault.
- 3 Tot Hill. Trees cut. Many arrests.

Owen Bowcott on protest success

RECLINING in cold mud under a contractor's van, Rory Larkin peered out from behind a rear tyre. He was relishing his discomfort.

He had padlocked himself to the exhaust and had prevented the load of chainsaws being used elsewhere on the Newbury bypass.

"If they start the engine, I'll get third degree burns," the 28-year-old former warehouseman boasted. After two hours, cramped and shivering, he crawled out to a round of applause from anti-road protesters.

Such tactics succeeded in delaying work again on the route after construction teams briefly gained the

initiative by commencing operations at several sites.

Trees were felled with chainsaws at Tot Hill and Great Fen Wood, south of Newbury, before enough demonstrators gathered to disrupt the cutting. At Enborne Road to the west of the town, activists scrambled up willows and ashes to save a copse.

As on Friday, the use of mobile chainsaw crews led to a large number of arrests with 20 protesters taken to Newbury police station yesterday. Most of them were held under the Criminal Justice Act, although one was arrested for assault.

One demonstrator, who gave his name as "Bark"

from Belgium, claimed his life had been endangered. "I climbed up a fir tree and the man below put a chainsaw into the trunk."

At one point security men linked arms forming an empty square while they escorted two men carrying chainsaws across a field full of jeering protesters.

There was also evidence of growing local unease at the construction work. Lady Jeanine Barber and several of her friends who live near the site again expressed their solidarity.

Lady Barber was looking agitated. "A lot of local people are very sympathetic to this protest but they won't turn out."

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Advisory Group on the Ethics of Xenotransplantation

Request for Submissions

The Secretary of State for Health has appointed Professor Ian Kennedy to chair an Advisory Group on the Ethics of Xenotransplantation to report to him by summer 1996. Their terms of reference are:

In the light of recent and potential developments in xenotransplantation, to review the acceptability of and ethical framework within which xenotransplantation may be undertaken and to make recommendations.

The Advisory Group invites written views and evidence from individuals and organisations. Further information about submitting written evidence is available from the Secretary. Submissions should be sent as soon as possible, and no later than 29 March 1996, to:

The Secretary
Advisory Group on the Ethics of Xenotransplantation
Room 508 Eileen House
80-94 Newington Causeway
London SE1 6EF

سكان من الاجل

Alan Travis reports on changes to 'appalling practice' and promise to review HIV case

Manacles policy loosened

Prisons modify maternity rule

THE Prison Service decision to change its policy of chaining pregnant women prisoners means they will not be manacled once they have entered a hospital maternity unit.

A decision in principle to modify the policy emerged after a 50-minute meeting yesterday between the acting head of the Prison Service and the Royal College of Midwives which has campaigned since July against the "appalling practice".

Richard Tilt, the Prison Service's acting director-general, said afterwards they hoped to agree a formal statement within the next two days establishing a new policy. "We are discussing how we can give a more humane effect to this policy."

It is understood that a wider interpretation will be adopted of the policy first introduced last April after the IRA escapes at Whitemoor and Parkhurst.

The policy will in future be taken to mean that pregnant prisoners may be chained and handcuffed while moving from prison to hospital but not once they have entered the maternity unit. It is also believed that prison officers will be required to keep guard outside the labour ward and not sit in the room behind a screen.

The Royal College of Midwives privately described yesterday's meeting as a breakthrough and its president, Caroline Flint, said the atmosphere was sympathetic. "We

needed a clearer definition of the point that labour started. Labour is a longer process than was perceived by the Home Office. Labour starts from the onset of regular painful uterine contractions."

As the case of "Annette", highlighted in the Guardian last week, demonstrated pregnant prisoners were being shackled when they left the maternity ward of the Whittington hospital in London to go to the toilet after labour had started.

The British Medical Association added its weight to those calling for the Home Office to end the "routine application of maximum restraint in every case". It believed that "security and clinical needs must be the subject of negotiation and every case must be assessed on its merits".

The guidelines were issued last April when an instruction was issued to the governors of women prisons saying that all inmates who needed to be escorted to medical or welfare appointments should be restrained.

The governor had to ensure a "risk assessment" was undertaken. Those deemed not to be an escape risk were allowed to visit hospital unescorted on a temporary release licence. But all other prisoners were required to be cuffed or chained regardless of the escape risk they represented.

The Home Office says that 20 women prisoners have escaped during hospital visits since 1990, including a pregnant inmate who jumped from a first-floor window.



The HIV positive remand prisoner who is shackled 24 hours a day to a prison officer at St Mary's hospital, west London

RICHARD Tilt, the acting director-general of the Prison Service, yesterday said he would personally review the case of the HIV-positive woman prisoner who is shackled 24 hours a day to a prison officer.

An Old Bailey judge yesterday refused a bail application on behalf of the inmate from Holloway prison, north London, known only as Jane, who is on remand in custody for allegedly smuggling heroin.

She is chained by her wrist while she is in a specialist ward of St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, in west London.

Her solicitor, Sarah Cleary, says she is far too ill to walk more than a couple of hundred yards and would not be an escape risk. "She's fairly seriously ill but being held in unthinkable conditions. She's got tubes coming out of her. She is wearing one handcuff attached by a very long chain to a prison officer, who wears the other cuff. It's like something out of China."

Mr Tilt said last night that discretion already ex-

isted to unchain inmates if the prison authorities were satisfied that medical conditions were such that there was no risk of escape and security considerations were not paramount.

It is believed Jane is charged with importing four grammes of heroin with an estimated street value of £320. She has been on remand since November.

News in brief

Commissioner goes back to Nigeria

THOROLD MASEFIELD, the British High Commissioner to Nigeria, who was withdrawn after the execution of minority rights campaigner Ken Saro-Wiwa and other Ogonis, returned to Lagos yesterday.

Nigeria's membership of the Commonwealth was suspended after the executions in November and EU countries withdrew senior diplomatic representatives.

EU governments have decided to return their diplomats before a visit by a sub-committee from the Commonwealth ministerial group, which has been set up to tackle democratic and human rights violations. International measures have failed to persuade the Nigerian regime to restore democracy and recognise human rights. "Part of the Commonwealth's message is the need for direct dialogue to get these points across and, in support of that, it seems right to us to have our top man there," said a Foreign Office official.

Legal battle over Moore

SCULPTOR Henry Moore's daughter Mary yesterday renewed her High Court battle to gain control of millions of pounds worth of her father's work. She and her mother helped the sculptor set up the charitable Henry Moore Foundation in 1976. A year later, and until his death aged 88 in 1986, Henry Moore became an employee of the foundation because of tax worries.

Lord Irvine QC, representing Ms Moore, aged 48, told the Court of Appeal that his Moore claims that all her father's artist's copies of his works were his personal property.

Lord Irvine said that under an unwritten "artist's copy convention", sculptors were allowed to produce up to two versions of a limited edition which then became their own property. The Henry Moore Foundation was claiming that because Moore was an employee of HMF Enterprises he had given up his rights to artist's copies.

Mitchell to miss deadline

THE Mitchell Commission on illegal weapons will not meet its deadline of this Thursday to deliver its report to the British and Irish governments.

After talks with Ulster Unionist MPs in Belfast yesterday George Mitchell, President Clinton's special Irish envoy, said there could be a delay of 24 hours or so. "There is no set back involved," he said. "We simply have got such a large number of people we have to meet that it's physically impossible to do it."

— David Sharrock

Skull role caps comic career

THE comic Ken Dodd has been invited by Kenneth Branagh to take the role of Yorick the jester in his film version of Hamlet.

Extra lines were added for Dodd, aged 68 (right), in Shakespeare's version Yorick appears only as a skull. Flashbacks to Hamlet's youth will show Yorick clowning.

Branagh, playing Hamlet, will say "Alas, poor Yorick" to Dodd's skull, according to yesterday's Sun. The film, which shooting starts this month, also stars Robin Williams, Gerard Depardieu, Charlton Heston, Jack Lemmon and Julie Christie.

Dodd said: "I'm looking forward to it with a great deal of plumpness. It is only a cameo role, but I'm very excited. There will be all those big stars."



Chain of correspondence Scots jail plan attacked

July 18: Alan Howarth, then Tory MP for Stratford-on-Avon, writes to Michael Howard saying "the policy of securing women prisoners in handcuffs or chains is degrading and shameful". He receives no reply from ministers and cites their lack of interest as a key reason for his defection to Labour.

August 31: Whittington Hospital chief executive Ian Kidson, writes to Holloway governor enclosing letter from his director of midwifery, Marie Grant, expressing concern of maternity unit staff over new Home Office policy that all inmates are handcuffed or chained to warders.

October 19: Michael Howard tells MPs they should "question" Alan Howarth's judgment for claiming that women prisoners are being kept in chains. He insists they are being handcuffed only between prison and hospital.

December 4: Baroness Hayman, chairwoman of Whittington Hospital Trust, writes to health ministers asking for a meeting to discuss "professional concerns over the effects of tightening of custody policies towards pregnant women prisoners."

Two follow-up phone calls are made to ministers to try to arrange the meeting, which was to include Home Office

ministers. It does not take place.

January 8: Mr Kidson writes to Holloway asking the jail to end "the practice of sending male prison officers to accompany women coming into the hospital for maternity care."

Ann Widdecombe tells the Commons: "No concerns have been registered by the hospital about Holloway practice."

January 11: Baroness Hayman writes to Miss Widdecombe making clear the hospital's concern and adding: "I would be grateful if you could correct the impression given by your remarks to the House on Tuesday."

Erland Clouston

PROPOSALS to keep offenders in jail longer and increase supervision of short-term inmates after release were announced by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, at an historic sitting of the Scottish Grand Committee in Edinburgh yesterday.

Under plans which appear to anticipate government policy for the rest of Britain, prisoners in Scotland would serve their full sentence less a possible sixth, which they would have to earn.

Mr Forsyth made his announcement during a law and order debate in the committee which, for the first time, took ministerial questions north of the border. He told the gathering of around 30 MPs that "people are bewildered by prisoners getting out at half time for full-time offences".

At present, inmates serving less than four years are released after half their sentence. Long-term prisoners are eligible for parole halfway through their sentences, and are automatically released on licence after two-thirds.

The proposals, which also indicate Government support for extension of post-custody supervision to short-term as well as long-term prisoners, will now go for consultation prior to a white paper by the summer. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, told last year's Tory conference he proposed to abolish automatic early release for prisoners.

However, John McFall, Labour's Scottish home affairs spokesman, accused the Government of copying "crude American proposals of warehousing prisoners". He said 90 per cent of Scotland's prison population were re-offenders and 40 per cent were fine defaulters — a "disgraceful" statistic, he alleged.

Mr Forsyth also said random drugs testing of inmates would begin at Cornton Vale prison outside Stirling, and at Edinburgh, next month.

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American is first non-Irish poet to win T S Eliot prize

Michael Ellison Arts Correspondent

AN HIV-positive American writer last night became the first winner of the £5,000 T S Eliot poetry prize from outside Northern Ireland.

Mark Doty, right, beat a shortlist of 10 for the prize, one of the most important in the country, with My Alexandria, his first collection published in the UK. Of the previous winners, Ciaran Carson comes from Portadown and Paul Muldoon from Belfast.

The poems in My Alexandria were written between his lover Wally's diagnosis as HIV-positive and the onset of Aids, a period which Doty calls "a terrible leisure of contemplation".

Liz Lochhead, one of the judges, said the collection "burst upon Britain with the force that such rage, beauty and sorrow must summon. How can poems be so searing and so scintillating at the same time?"



"His long-time partner was diagnosed as HIV-positive in 1989 and these poems are written in the strange anxious period between then and the onset of Aids. It's not the shadow we remember from this poetry, but froths of flowers, rainstrains, rusts."

Doty came ahead of Simon Armitage, Ian Duhig, Michael Langley, Glyn Maxwell and Bernard O'Donoghue, to take the prize presented by Eliot's widow, Valerie.

Open air art fills a barren site with scaffolding

Michael Ellison Arts Correspondent

URBAN INFILL, Britain's largest piece of open air art for two years, achieved its objectives within moments of completion yesterday.

Richard McDowell's work, constructed of sheeting and 3,000ft of scaffold tubing occupied what had been a barren site on one of north London's most fashionable streets.

Standing a proud 36ft tall the piece, which cost £4,000 could be seen from some distance, and the gap between its two parts formed a natural entrance leading people from a pedestrian crossing in Upper Street, Islington, to the Business Design Centre.

Urban Infill, which took two electricians and five



Richard McDowell and his Urban Infill in Islington, north London PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

scaffolders seven days to build, will have disappeared by next week.

It was commissioned to draw attention to Art '96, the country's largest contemporary arts fair, which is expected to have 30,000

visitors between when it opens tomorrow and when it closes on Sunday.

McDowell, aged 27, an architecture graduate studying at Wimbledon school of art, said: "I quite like the fact that the scaffolding is a

temporary language. I like things that are in a state of flux."

He won a competition entered by students from three London colleges for the right to see their work on the unused land.

Protection for Statesman

THE New Statesman magazine was granted a High Court administration order yesterday to protect it from creditors' claims while it seeks a buyer. Mr Justice Harman was told that the Statesman & Nation Publishing Company was "hopelessly insolvent". Its intention was to market the magazine title, its only marketable asset. Several potential buyers had expressed interest.

The administration order, which stops short of receivership, will keep the company alive while administering accountants seek to sell it to the most favourable bidder. Management has stressed that the magazine, founded in 1913, will continue to publish, and the principal shareholder, Philip Jeffrey, said the administration order would give the title the chance of a fresh start under a new owner.

President challenges union

THE president of Britain's sixth largest union is planning legal action to block her union's elections. Audrey Wise, Labour MP for Preston and president of the shop workers' union, Usdaw, since 1991, is acting with Maureen Madden, a North-east member of the union executive.

The dispute, which has split the union's leadership, will come to a head at a meeting of its executive council in Manchester today. Garfield Davis, the union's general secretary since 1996, announced that he planned to retire in June 1997. The union brought forward the election of his successor, the union presidency and the executive council in a combined poll which would save the union more than £150,000.

Mr Davies said his two colleagues represented "a small and totally unrepresentative faction which put leaving dogma before the interests of the predominantly moderate membership and seem to have little regard for the union's financial wellbeing". Mrs Wise's case will claim the union was breaking its own rules by seeking, without adequate warnings, early presidential and executive council elections, and by imposing a threshold of 25 branch nominations for the post of general secretary. — Martyn Haskill

Strangled woman named

POLICE last night named a woman found strangled and dumped on a moor as Angela Joyce Hays, aged 33, of Bolton. She said she had been the victim of a violent sex attack before she was murdered and her body thrown over a stone wall into scrubland by a layby, where it was found on Sunday.

Spot the ball.

You're not missing anything, it's in the bottom right hand corner of the photograph.

As the law stands you could go outside and play football with a live hedgehog, disembowel a fox or beat a rabbit.

In fact it is rarely a crime to carry out even the most appalling torture as long as your victim is a wild mammal.

But why? There are laws that currently protect the safety of domestic animals. What's needed is a simple law that bans cruelty

to all wild mammals as well.

On January 26th Alan Meale MP will put before Parliament a new Wild Mammals Protection Bill which will do just that.

It will make it illegal to cruelly kick, beat, impale, burn, crush or drown a wild mammal.

A letter from you to your MP could help persuade them to support the bill. Please write today expressing your opinion.

With luck you'll be helping to turn this football back into a hedgehog.

Submissions
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Ian Traynor reports on the killing ways of the gambler the Austrian tabloids call the black widow Vienna's lonely hearts and lingering deaths



Elfriede Blauensteiner: 'Share the autumn of my life'

THE Viennese widow needed company, so she took to playing the lonely hearts columns of the Austrian press. "Widow, 64, 1 metre 65cm, would like to share the quiet autumn of her life with a widower. I am a housewife, gardener, nurse, and a faithful companion." Suitors were not slow to take the bait. The tabloids have dubbed Elfriede Blauensteiner the black widow and the poison witch. Yesterday the police said she had confessed to the murder of four men and a woman. They suspect that there are more skeletons in her cupboard and that she will feature prominently in the annals of serial murder in central Europe. Scores of middle-aged men and pensioners answered her advertise-

ments, they say. She screened them for their assets, not physical or emotional, but material. Those best able to satisfy her gambling habit were selected for a slow death, the authorities allege. She is said to have had an all-consuming passion for the roulette wheels and blackjack tables of Vienna's sumptuous casinos. The pensioner with dyed blonde hair and blue-tinted glasses is said to have been a regular too at the gaming tables of Baden, the old Habsburgian spa town just outside Vienna. She was last spotted there in her fur coat as recently as New Year's Eve. She was taken into custody on Thursday after the nephew of Alois Pichler, a retired post office worker aged 76, became suspicious.

Pichler had apparently died of a heart attack in November last year. But he had altered his will in the widow's favour before he died. The nephew demanded a post-mortem and Pichler was found to have died of heart failure brought on by the slow ingestion of diabetic medi-

deaths. The widow's earnings from bank accounts, property, and cash bequeathed to her are said to have run into millions. Three other people are in custody in connection with the investigation: her lawyer Harald Schmidt, alleged to have helped her alter the will of the

the police said. By yesterday, five. The police believe that there is more to be revealed. "Nothing touches her. She's as cold as ice," said Werner Windisch of the Austrian CID. They have begun researching the lonely hearts columns in an attempt to trace her appeals and her respondents, and are opening up the graves of the alleged victims to conduct fresh post-mortems. Among the killings she has allegedly confessed to is that of her husband, Rudolf Blauensteiner, who died in 1992 at the age of 52. Mr Schmidt is said to have told the police that after the death of Pichler last November, Mrs Blauensteiner told him she had killed four people.

By Saturday she had confessed to two murders; by yesterday, five. The police believe there is more to be revealed

cine over a period of months. The police say this was the favoured murder method, the addition of medicine to food and drink over lengthy periods resulting in seemingly natural

purported victims, and two people said to have been paid £20,000 for acting as witnesses to an altered will. At first she denied everything. By Saturday she had confessed to two murders,

Row brews over US 'crusade'

Martin Walker in Washington

A SERIOUS row about Bosnia between the United States and its European Nato allies is looming as Washington insists on taking a far more aggressive role in pursuing war criminals and in arming and training Bosnian government forces. In two recent decisions the US defence secretary, William Perry, has alarmed his European allies in the force implementing the Dayton peace deal by widening US responsibilities in Bosnia. Mr Perry has authorised US troops to escort and provide facilities for human rights and war crimes investigators, and has also permitted controversial US-sponsored training missions of the Bosnian army to begin within the next two months. Next month, retired US servicemen who will train the Bosnian army will join the 20,000 US troops and the new Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) mission in Bosnia. The creeping escalation of US involvement is set to accelerate with the latest Pentagon orders to help in the investigation of war crimes. "We have no reason to wait," Mr Perry said of the training mission, which Pentagon sources say will cost up to \$400 million (£250 million), depending on the arms in the package. The use of retired US officers working for a private company is a device to minimise official US government involvement. "If the war crimes tribunal wants to go to Srebrenica and dig up some graves, we'll provide the security that allows them to do that," Mr Perry said. His comments were in

contrast to the cooler British response to claims that there are mass graves at the Ljubljina mine in western Bosnia. European Nato forces are privately dubious about more aggressive US support for war crimes inquiries and its readiness to arm the Bosnians. "Either way we have a problem," one European diplomat in Washington said yesterday. "If the US restricts its support for war crimes researchers to its own zone, then people can drive a wedge between the US and the allies. And neither France nor Britain are too keen to have their own politically delicate sectors complicated by an American war crimes crusade." The most delicate areas, Pale and Sarajevo, are in the Bosnia sector, and the Ljubljina mines and the tense Mostar area are in the British sector. The most discreet area of US involvement is a new clandestine mission run by the CIA and military intelligence to monitor the activities of opponents of the Dayton deal. President Bill Clinton is unlikely to face much criticism from the Republican congress: last month the US senate backed the mission on condition that the White House help equip Bosnian government forces. Mr Perry said the US will take care to ally European fears "I think they understand at this stage we don't want an arms race, and we will work this in the context of an arms control agreement," he said at the weekend. Bosnia's government yesterday refused to release Serb prisoners of war, the international Red Cross said. The Bosnian government says the Bosnian Serbs have not accounted for thousands of Muslims who went missing on Serb-held territory during the war.

Russian opposition unites to condemn attack • Commander led White House storming

President takes gambles on tough stance

David Hearst in Moscow

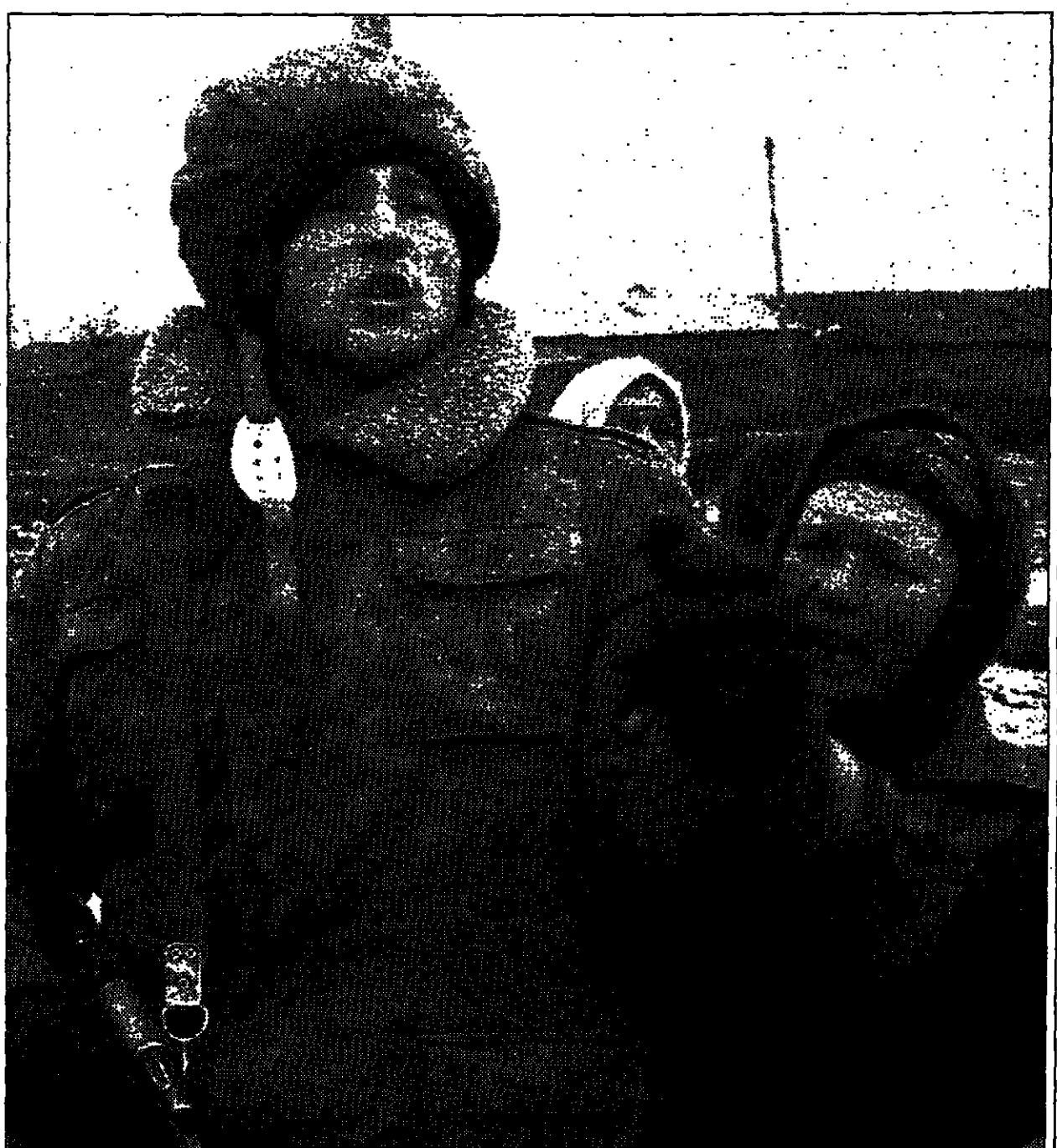
HIS voice was breathless, his face pale, but as Boris Yeltsin appeared in Red Square yesterday, there was no mistaking the president's purpose. Mr Yeltsin said: "When we have them cornered, and we are sure there are no hostages with them, then they must be..." All millions of Russians heard the sound of his hand hitting his fist. This was the Russian president at his most forceful, in control of an operation he described as carefully planned. "We have 30 snipers," the commander-in-chief of the Russian army growled, "each following his target and when his target moves, he moves. And 'smoke' was spread in the streets, so that

leadership repeatedly warned Moscow not to open fire. Mr Yeltsin could only hope yesterday to emerge with some hostages alive. But a war-mongering president, who starts battles he cannot finish, may be the worst image to present to voters. The electorate he will face in June this year, if he decides to run again for the presidency, is heartily sick of television pictures of burning buildings and Russian citizens mourning the dead. The opposition in the State Duma, which opens today, seized on the president's discomfort. Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, said: "The president, the government and their incompetent policies are to blame for everything that has happened. This is the continuation of the old politics, whereby the authorities are incapable of ensuring their citizens' elementary security." The liberal economist Grigory Yavlinsky, who offered himself as a replacement for the hostages, predicted the assault would have a big impact on the political fortunes of the president and the government. He warned that the crisis could seriously affect relations with Dagestan. Mr Yeltsin's former human rights adviser, Sergei Kovalev, appealed to his president on public radio: "Stop the senseless destruction of every living thing in Pervomayskaya. For those poor people, a terrorist is the same as a Russian gunman or a pilot or a so-called liberator, if he is killed by their bullets."

Hour by hour

- 0600 Russian forces begin artillery barrage
- 0630 Security officials says attack launched after gunmen began killing captives
- 0830 Tass says Russian special forces have moved into village. Rebels fire back
- 1000 Tass says at least one Russian soldier killed
- 1215 Tass says Chechens' outer defences breached
- 1230 Yeltsin says operation will be over by day's end with little bloodshed
- 1400 Rebel leader Salman Raduyev quoted as saying his group had no intention of killing hostages
- 1600 Russian news agencies say troops have freed nine hostages. Darkness falls

Only the extreme nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy supported Mr Yeltsin. He said it was all a Western, FBI-sponsored plot to start a civil war in Russia. Last night the opposition was meeting to decide on its tactics. Mr Zyuganov, who looks the strongest presidential challenger after his party's victory in December's parliamentary elections, is likely to resist calls for a no-confidence vote. His interest lies in keeping Mr Yeltsin's least popular ministers in power for as long as possible. The prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, yesterday failed to attend a meeting of the Council of Ministers, claiming "sickness". Mr Chernomyrdin was the hero of the hour last summer when he negotiated a peaceful end to the hostage-taking in Budyonovsk. But Mr Yeltsin criticised the prime minister yesterday when he said that half the Chechens who took part in the Budyonovsk operation had reappeared in Pervomayskaya.



A Russian soldier prevents a woman from approaching the village of Pervomayskaya after troops launched their assault

Taking Yeltsin's flak in Dagestan

The man in the Chechen firing line has a shield in the Kremlin, writes David Hearst

Mikhail Barsukov initially resisted the invitation to head the Federal Security Service, politically the least secure job in the president's gift. It is not difficult to see why. His predecessor had been sacked because of the spectacular hostage-taking by Chechen guerrillas in the southern Russian town of Budyonovsk last June. He was being offered a service demoralised by reform, weakened by the constant defection of its best people to the free market, but facing a formidable array of opponents, from the mafia

to Dzhokhar Dudayev's fighters. As head of the Kremlin bodyguard, the general department of protection (GDP), General Barsukov had at the age of 48 a position of power without responsibility. He was being asked to exchange the comfort of relative anonymity for one of the most visible jobs in Russia. No wonder he agreed only after securing guarantees from the president himself. One of his chief insurance policies is the fact that his friend General Alexander Kozhakov is head of the interior ministry. He was one of the organisers of the storming of the White House to end the parliamentary revolt in October 1993. But one of his crack units from the old KGB, the Alpha group, refused to fight, and Gen Barsukov was held responsible. Since Budyonovsk, all the special forces have had front line experience, but Afghan veterans say they are still a shadow of their former selves. Once the cream of the army, they now share the low pay of other troops. One former special forces paratrooper in Ryazan said: "Why risk your life in Chechnya, when you know that the state will not look after your widowed wife and orphaned children?"

Kohl coalition splits on EMU

Ian Traynor in Bonn and John Palmer in Brussels

GERMANY'S increasingly fractious debate over a single European currency has erupted into a row inside government ranks for the first time, with the two top figures in Bavaria's ruling Christian Social Union — part of the federal coalition — at daggers drawn. The CSU boss, federal finance minister and cheerleader of the pro-single currency camp, Theo Waigel, walked out of a closed CSU meeting when Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian prime minister, threatened to break ranks on economic and monetary union and run for reelection on a Euro-sceptic platform. To Mr Waigel's acute discomfort, Mr Stoiber told the meeting that the single currency was inconceivable without Italy and Spain. Their chances of meeting the membership terms on time are generally regarded as nonexistent. The decision on which countries are fit for EMU is to be taken in 1998, the same year as the next general elections in both Germany and the state of Bavaria. Mr Stoiber warned he was about to go public with his opposition to the far-right CSU course of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic government, of which Mr Stoiber's CSU is a member, and threatened to run on an anti-single currency ticket. This throws up the unsettling prospect of the Christian Democrats running nationally for the single currency while their sister party in Bavaria campaigns against it. Senior CSU officials sought to play down the rumpus. But Mr Stoiber's salvo deeply alarmed Mr Kohl's party leader, one of the architects of the single currency plan. Mr Waigel's first embar-

assament came last week with the announcement that his own government's deficit last year was 3.6 per cent — well above the Maastricht Treaty's single currency ceiling of 3 per cent. But the latest flare-up in the single currency row also highlights how the conflict in Germany is not so much between parties as within the main political forces. Mr Stoiber, on the right, is making much the same objections to the single currency idea as Gerhard Schroeder, a leading opposition Social Democrat on the centre left. At the weekend, he called for a renegotiation of the Maastricht terms and demanded a postponement of the 1999 launch date. He also faces stiff resistance from Euro-enthusiasts in his own party. Otmar Issing, of the board of the Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, joined the chorus of doubters, accusing EU leaders of a lack of seriousness. By contrast, Mr Waigel argues that any delay could see the project unravel and signal a free-for-all by speculators on foreign exchanges, further strengthening already overvalued German marks, hurting German exports and jobs. At the weekend Dr Kohl reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to the conditions and timetable for the single currency. But a stagnating German economy and a general downturn across Europe are generating fears that the launch will need to be delayed. President Jacques Chirac said in Paris yesterday he had had several exchanges with Chancellor Kohl about how to lead Europe into a cycle of growth. Karl Lamers, foreign policy spokesman for Dr Kohl's Christian Democrat party, has already proposed an EMU employment and stability pact.

France fights Britain for Middle East arms deals

The prospect of job losses in the defence industry is prompting fears of further strikes, writes Alex Duval Smith in Paris

FEARFUL of a new round of strikes, this time over massive job cuts in its defence industry, France is engaged in a desperate race to outbid Britain for Middle East markets where Britain has a strong foothold. Yesterday — two days after a visit by the Defence Minister, Michael Portillo — his French counterpart Francois Millon flew to Kuwait trumpeting the "superior" quality of French naval missiles over their British equivalents.

Competition between Britain and France for Middle East markets, including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, began in earnest with President Jacques Chirac's election in May. Mr Millon has made several visits to the region. Unlike other Western countries, France has maintained an export-dependent defence industry of cold-war proportions. But its defence chiefs expect the government axe to fall at any moment.

They say privately that up to 50,000 jobs may be lost in the next two years. The French government fears that the prospect of such devastating job cuts — which will be highlighted tomorrow when a leading tank and weapons manufacturer announces massive losses — could spark strikes similar to those which paralysed the country last month. A working party report on the French navy is today expected to recommend that state-owned naval shipyards should seek partnerships with the private sector. But naval shipyards employ 24,000 workers who are as jealous of their state-employee status as were the

transport workers who went on strike for three weeks in December. With the added bitter pill tomorrow of losses by Giat industries, estimated at up to 12 billion francs (£1.6 billion), French MPs fear a heated reaction from the quarter of a million people who are employed directly in the French defence industry. René Galy-Dejean, a right-wing MP and defence expert, said yesterday: "We have a great deal of rationalisation to do. In the last few years governments have been putting off changes which should have been implemented when the world map changed in 1989."

Jean-Paul Hébert, an independent defence analyst, agreed: "The market has changed. Ten years ago, United States manufacturers could concentrate on their own market; the Pentagon was buying 300 combat aircraft a year. This year, it is buying 47. So France has a new, efficient competitor." There have already been job cuts in the French defence industry, which in 1982 employed more than 300,000 people. Revenue from defence sales, which in five years has fallen by 20 per cent to 97 billion francs, will continue to decline. President Chirac has indicated that state spending on defence is to be cut from the 105 billion francs projected

for this year. Analysts say the figure will be closer to 75 billion francs. Critics of the government argue that President Chirac's decision, only a month after his election, to resign after clear testing was, in part, aimed at softening the blow for the military lobby. France's traditionally independent and secretive defence industry has recently tried to strengthen links with foreign manufacturers. Last month, Dassault Aviation, whose Rafale fighter plane project is on hold because of defence budget cuts, launched a partnership with British Aerospace. The two are expected to produce a new fighter plane by 2025.

News in brief

Mexico seizes trafficker

Mexican police have captured one of the world's most wanted drug traffickers, the cartel chief, Juan Garcia Abrego, Mexico's Radio Red reported yesterday. The radio said a special convoy took Garcia Abrego, on the FBI's wanted list, from a hangar at Mexico City airport to a high security jail on the city outskirts. — Reuter.

Inquiry call

Spain's opposition parties are seeking an inquiry into newspaper allegations that Enrique Sarasola Lerchundi, friend and former legal adviser of the Socialist prime minister, Felipe González,

took pay-offs worth over \$28 million and paid bribes to arrange for a multinational construction project. — AP.

Papers accused

Turkey says it plans legal action against the European and the Scottish Daily Record which it claims published false reports about the army's treatment of Kurds and the activities of Turkish diplomats. — AP.

Egyptian U-turn

In an unexpected about-turn, Egypt's state prosecutor decided yesterday not to help Nassr Abu Zaid, a professor of Arabic at Cairo university, to appeal against a court ruling declaring him a non-believer and ordering him to divorce his wife. — AP.

Number 1

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What a shame

Edward Wil

brews US ade'

Andrew Higgins sees business leaders parade through court in Seoul's £430m slush-fund scandal

Humbled Roh 'ready for punishment'

HAILED into court over a £430 million slush-fund scandal, South Korea's business barons yesterday told of visiting the former president, Roh Tae-woo, at his official residence, the Blue House, to hand over cheques and envelopes stuffed with money. But all denied paying bribes in return for specific favours and claimed their payments were part of accepted business practice in a system that made massive political "donations" indispensable to corporate success.

The testimony of executives from Daewoo, Samsung and two other conglomerates came after Mr Roh — a farmer general who ruled South Korea from 1988 to 1993 — declared himself ready for any punishment — and thus unwilling to face cross-examination. Arrested two months ago and charged with pocketing about £240 million in crooked payments, Mr Roh appeared for his second day in court wearing a light-blue prison uniform and rubber slippers. However, in deference to his former status, he was spared the indignity of being handcuffed and having a rope around his torso, the customary treatment for prisoners. He is reported to be reading Margaret Thatcher's memoirs to help fortify himself.

Spared the indignity of being handcuffed, Mr Roh is said to be reading Margaret Thatcher's memoirs to fortify himself



Yesterday's hearing at the Seoul district court was the first since the bribery trial opened a month ago. Also on trial are eight businessmen and six former aides.

backs during his eight years as president, is expected to go on trial later this month in a separate case. He faces charges relating to his role in the military's brutal suppression in 1980 of a demonstration in Kwangju. Appalled by the scale of corruption and shocked by the many celebrated names involved, South Koreans have been transfixed by the spectacle of former presidents and tycoons parading into court. Daewoo's chairman, Kim Woo-choon, yesterday admitted giving Mr Roh about £10 million for the 1992 parliamentary election, calling it a "long-established tradition". Lawyers for the Samsung conglomerate called such payments a "pseudo-tax". However, prosecutors believe the money was tied to specific contracts. Deals currently being investigated for

evidence of kickbacks range from nuclear-power stations and roads to the military's purchase of 120 F-16s. The court heard detailed descriptions of a meeting at the Blue House in March 1992 attended by three businessmen. The businessmen knew they were supposed to leave money, but were not sure how much. Asked what sum would be appropriate, a presidential aide advised: "The more the better, because it is election time." They left a white envelope with the equivalent of more than \$2 million. Such is the public appetite for information that television stations began coverage yesterday four hours before the session began. Television stations have set up temporary studios outside the courtroom, and hundreds of riot police ringed the court compound.

president had taken money, but said he had been careful in choosing corporations from which to accept cash. "He only received donations from those companies with sound financial foundations," Mr Kim said. "He even rejected offers for donations by businessmen having financial difficulties."

News in brief

Papandreou 'certain to resign this week'

GREEK Socialist officials said yesterday they were certain the ailing prime minister, Andreas Papandreou, will resign this week, paving the way for his party to replace him and end the two-month political crisis. "This is the decision he will take and would take, the decision useful for the land," the Socialist speaker of parliament, Apostolos Kakkamanis, said after meeting President Constantine Stephanopoulos to discuss Mr Papandreou's resignation. Socialists have spent a week trying to persuade the prime minister to resign before he is forced out of office, making the transfer of power easier and ensuring they finish their four-year term. If Mr Papandreou refuses to stand down, a growing number of deputies have said they will replace him anyway, which could prompt a constitutional crisis. Under the constitution, Mr Papandreou — who has been in hospital since November 20 — can only be replaced if he resigns or dies. The party central committee will meet on Saturday to tell Socialist deputies to pick a new prime minister. The defence minister, Gerassimos Aronis, and the former industry minister Costas Simitis are candidates to succeed Mr Papandreou. Mr Papandreou's wife Dimitra has accused his children and ex-wife of orchestrating attacks against her and said she will fight attempts to replace him. She told the *Colt* magazine: "The family is trying to take over Papandreou's political inheritance... They want Dimitra outside of all this." — *Agencies, Athens*

East German leaders on trial

SIX former East German communist leaders were back in court in Berlin yesterday to face manslaughter charges for the border killings of refugees trying to flee to the West during the cold war. The trial of Egon Krenz and five other members of the old politburo was suspended in November while one of the defendants underwent an operation for a kidney tumour. Lawyers for Mr Krenz, East Germany's last headline ruler, immediately asked for the trial to be suspended as unconstitutional. Mr Krenz told the court that the former Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, had assured him after talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl before German unification in 1990 that East Berlin leaders would not be tried before all-German courts. "It would not come to the point where one legal system would judge the other," Mr Krenz said he had been told. The defendants face 47 manslaughter charges and 24 of attempted manslaughter for the killings of East Germans trying to cross to West Germany. Mr Krenz and his defence team have dismissed the case as a political show trial designed to settle the West's old scores with communism. — *Reuter, Berlin*

Marcos millions disputed

TALKS were held in Hong Kong yesterday to settle claims to the estimated \$300 million stashed away in Swiss bank accounts by the late dictator of the Philippines, Ferdinand Marcos, part of a \$3 billion cache Manila alleges he spirited away. Lawyers for thousands of human rights victims and relatives of people who suffered abuse during Marcos's 20-year rule attended the talks with Philippine government officials and Swiss bankers. But representatives from the biggest organisation representing those claiming abuse objected to a deal between the lead counsel for the victims' grouping and the Philippine government that would result in charges being dropped against the Marcos family, including Imelda Marcos, the widow of the late dictator. The deal is for an out-of-court financial settlement, which will clear the way for the government's own claim to the Marcos billions. — *Reuter, Hong Kong*

Nigerian police thwarted

OPPPOSITION groups in Nigeria yesterday thwarted riot police who prevented a service to honour the victims of military rule by meeting elsewhere. Witnesses said that at dawn 100 riot police took over the Shitta area of Lagos, the scheduled venue of the multi-religious service, to prevent the event from taking place after it had been declared illegal by the authorities. "We saw Shitta swamped this morning not only by the police but also the army and, following prior arrangements, we moved to another area where we conducted a Christian and a Muslim service," said Tunji Adebisi of the National Democratic Coalition (Nadeco) opposition group. Mr Adebisi said 200 people gathered less than half a mile away and prayed for those Nigerians who have either died or were detained for their pro-democracy activities. "The service was organised by the Campaign for Democracy and Nadeco as part of activities which started on Thursday when their members paid condolence visits to 'all known martyrs'." — *Reuter, Lagos*

Burma forced labour inquiry

THE European Commission is expected to launch an investigation today into forced labour in Burma, which could lead the European Union to withdraw trade concessions. This would be the first use of controversial EU legislation linking trade privileges for developing countries to labour standards. The investigation follows allegations by European and international trade union organisations that Burma's military authorities force people to work on transport, commercial and tourism projects. The commission is also considering launching a similar investigation on Pakistan. — *Julie Wolf, Brussels*

Success for 'pro-SS' party

A DEPUTY from the Freedom Party of the rightwing Austrian populist Jörg Haider was yesterday voted into a leading parliamentary position despite controversy about Mr Haider's recent praise of Adolf Hitler's Waffen-SS. Willi Braumeder was elected second deputy to the president of parliament with the help of the conservative People's Party. Austria's second political force, which is now assured of Freedom Party support to elect its candidate, Waldtraud Klasnic, as governor of the southwestern Styria province next Tuesday. In an address to former members of the Waffen-SS last September, broadcast in December by German and Austrian television, Mr Haider praised members of the organisation as "men of character" who had remained loyal to their convictions despite political "headwinds". His comments triggered outrage and calls for him to leave parliament. His subsequent attempt — at the insistence of President Thomas Klestil — to distance himself from his remarks was rejected as insufficient by the Social Democrats and two other smaller parties, the Liberal Forum and the Greens. — *AP, Vienna*



Brothers in arms... Portugal's prime minister, Antonio Guterres (left), congratulates fellow Socialist Jorge Sampaio yesterday on his presidential victory. PHOTOGRAPH: IUS PAVOS

Gay young things

THE more sons a mother has, the greater the chance that her next son will be homosexual, a new study of 302 gay and 302 heterosexual men says. Researchers in Toronto said this might be a result of the mother's immune system acting on the male foetus, or the psychological effect of growing up with older brothers. Forty-five per cent of men with no older brothers were gay, compared with 63 per cent of men with one such brother and 64 per cent of men with two such brothers. Five of the seven with four or more older brothers were gay. Sisters and younger brothers made no difference. — *AP, New York*

UK chided over boat people

Nick Cunnings-Bruce in Bangkok

CHINESE officials took a dig at Britain's policy on Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong yesterday, reminding authorities in the colony they had just 534 days to fulfil their obligation of sending them all back before China takes over. The comment came from a Chinese official attending a meeting of 28 countries in Bangkok which agreed to measures to accelerate the return of more than 39,000 Vietnamese from camps in Hong Kong and around South-East Asia, accepting the use of force if necessary. Britain bore "an unshirkable responsibility" for the boat people problem because of its policy of allowing Hong Kong to be used as a country of first asylum for fleeing Vietnamese. Cheng Soutan declared. Their presence was a factor that could adversely affect Hong Kong's prosperity and stability, he chided. The number of boat people repatriated from Hong Kong in 1995 was less than a third the number in 1994. "The final deadline of course is July 1, 1997, but we hope the problem can be settled before that time," he said. Responding to concern from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and South-East Asian governments, Vietnam agreed yesterday to complete procedures for all boat people in their camps within two months to clear the way for their repatriation within the first half of the year. The UNHCR proposes to wind down its support for boat people in those camps in the same period, a senior official, Alessandro Casella, said. These measures were intended, as a Malaysian official put it, to give boat people "a very clear message that there is no more time, there is no more extension... there is no other choice but to return to Vietnam." They do not apply to Hong Kong which, with close to 22,000 Vietnamese in its camps, accounts for more boat people than the rest of South-East Asia combined. About half of these have been cleared for repatriation by Vietnamese authorities, Hong Kong's secretary for security, Peter Lai, noted yesterday. He added that 500 people had volunteered to return in the past week. The problem will be "winning the acquiescence of the hard core. We do not like to use force and if we are faced with the inevitable need to use force we will use a minimum," Mr Lai said. Mr Casella confirmed the UNHCR will finance the transport of boat people to Vietnam, even where force is used. "The world will not see pictures of screaming refugees being forced on to aircraft because they are not refugees," Mr Casella remarked.

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Pregnant woman among hostages

John Agillonby in Jakarta

ONE of seven Westerners being held hostage by separatists in a remote jungle village in the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya is pregnant, a captive freed temporarily revealed yesterday. The others are in good health and are being treated well. One of the hostages, a German researcher for the World Wide Fund for Nature, Frank Mombert, was released yesterday by his Free Papua Movement (OPM) captors to present their demands for pursuing Indonesian forces. Mr Mombert disclosed that Martha Klein, a Dutch Unesco worker who is among those being held by the OPM, is pregnant. The Indonesian military have rejected the demand for an aeroplane or helicopter with a civilian pilot in exchange for the release of all the hostages. "We would only send an aircraft to collect the hostages but not for use by the rebels," said Brigadier-General Suwarno Adiwijoyo, an army spokesman. Mr Mombert told Indonesian television: "We are being treated well and have been given enough food. None of us has been taken

ill. Unfortunately, Martha Klein is pregnant and another hostage, Jacobus, has a six-month-old child. I hope they can be released soon." Mr Mombert was released to the military in the town of Wamena in exchange for food and medicine, which were taken to the rebels by helicopter. He speaks fluent Indonesian and knows the area well. Under the deal, Mr Mombert will return to the rebels, according to Brig Suwarno. "Mr Mombert was asked to explain the various demands made by the captors," he said. "But he will have to go back." The OPM is still holding 14 other hostages. They include the Cambridge graduates Daniel Start, William Oates, Annette van der Kolk and Anna McVoy; two Dutch citizens, Mart van der Wal and Ms Klein; and several Indonesian scientists, mainly from Jakarta. They began their second week in captivity yesterday. Mr Mombert's release was broken by two priests who were taken yesterday to the rebel base, believed to be in the mountainous village of Mapunduma. Indonesian forces have set up their base in Wamena, 25 miles away, and sources say more than 1,000 soldiers are in the area.

VILLAGERS in the West Bank community of Beit Inan hang on the words of Jonathan Kuttab, who is running for a seat on the new self-rule Palestinian Council in the first Palestinian elections on Saturday.

In Jerusalem, many of the 50 or more candidates are expected to suspend campaigning today to protest at Israel's continued detention of more than 4,000 Palestinian prisoners. Only around 55,000 Palestinians in the city have reg-

istered to vote, fewer than two-thirds of those eligible, and the campaign there has been lacklustre. Israel, which only grudgingly conceded the right of Jerusalem people to take part in the elections, insists the city will remain forever

united under its control. The PLO chairman, Yasser Arafat, who has scarcely troubled to campaign, will be in the self-ruled enclave of Jericho today to greet the visiting US vice-president, Al Gore. — *Derek Brown*

Lesotho's king dies in car crash

Chris McGreal in Johannesburg reports on the eventful life of Moshoeshe II and his tiny southern African mountain domain

KING MOSHOESHOE II of Lesotho was killed in a car accident yesterday, just a year after he was restored to the throne of his mountain kingdom for a second time. Initial reports said his car swerved off a winding mountain road while travelling from the royal village in rural Lesotho. The 57-year-old king, who

was educated in England, survived democratic government, civilian dictatorship and military rule, despite his own political ambitions. But his fortunes, like those of his subjects, were also subject to the political currents of South Africa, which surrounds the kingdom. The demands of the apartheid state helped depose him six years ago, and the changes which subsequently swept the region lifted him back on to the throne in 1995.

pendence from Britain 30 years ago. King Moshoeshe II unilaterally attempted to increase his powers. The elected civilian government forced him to back down and sign an undertaking recognising that constitutional power lay with the prime minister. From then on he played a limited if sometimes confrontational political role, although he could prove a rallying point at times of crisis. In 1970 he was placed under house arrest when the prime minister, Leabua Jonathan, refused to accept an election defeat and used the army to retain power. The king was reinstated within the year, after he agreed to remain apart from politics. But he waded into the fray again after the army seized power in 1986 with the assistance of South Africa's apartheid regime. Pretoria was disgruntled at the support given the then-banned ANC by Lesotho's previous government, and had virtually shut down the kingdom by blockading its borders. When the feud came to a head, the king was forced into exile in England in March 1990. The military put his son

on the throne as Letsie III. Moshoeshe returned to Lesotho in July 1992, but his throne was not restored until after Letsie provoked a constitutional crisis in 1994 by dismissing the elected government, bringing a threat of military intervention from South Africa and other southern African states. The king's death adds to the uncertainty in Lesotho, which is concerned that changes in South Africa may be to its detriment, particularly proposals to limit the number of foreign workers in the gold mines, Lesotho's main source of income after aid. Lesotho's 1.8 million people had mixed feelings about their king. Before his exile he was popular with some, in part because he was visible in the community. But others were suspicious of his political ambitions. After his reinstatement last year he kept a lower profile and made no evident forays into politics. His widow will temporarily sit on the throne while a college of chiefs decides who is to succeed him. He had one other son beside Letsie III.

What a shambles. Terry Venables on the retreat amid foetid gusts of scandal. Jack Rowell, apparently soured after less than two years in the job. Ray Illingworth enduring a public exorcism by a player whose confidence he destroyed.

Richard Williams page 16

oalition on EMU

Papers accused Egyptian U-turn

Teaching moral values

Curriculum bosses seem divided over their aims

BERTRAND Russell was right. Britain has always enjoyed two kinds of morality side by side: one we preach but do not practise, and another which we practise but seldom preach. Yesterday, with implicit ministerial blessing, the Government's chief curriculum advisers organised a conference on moral values. Good for them. A debate about values could bring relief to a school system which has been required to put so much emphasis on preparation for work that preparation for life has undoubtedly suffered. It provides an opportunity for teachers to remind parents that education has wider goals than just academic success. In the new competitive education market, many schools have downplayed PSE — personal and social education. There are no exams and no league tables in such a subject. There is also little agreement about what should be taught. Hence the conference.

Values are shaped by family, peer group, media, religious leaders as well as schools. Teachers only have children for 15 per cent of their waking time, so the role of the school needs to be kept in perspective. Yet schools do have a crucial role. Even early leavers will have spent 15,000 hours within school walls. The ethos of the school can play as important a part as the formal curriculum. Yet, as one delegate yesterday noted, what is set out in the school prospectus is not necessarily a close reflection of what children experience from their peer group within the school. The first goal of every school should be an explicit statement on the values that guide its practice — and an honest annual assessment of how far it has succeeded.

The keynote speech was delivered in a robust style from the chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, Nicholas Tate. Dr Tate, a committed Christian, ruses the decline

of religious faith. Yet, as AJ Ayer, the moral philosopher, noted, no morality can be founded on authority, even if the authority is divine. Dr Tate needs to reread his Plato: if God approves of certain actions because they themselves are morally right, not that they are morally right because God approves of them, then God is logically dispensable. Dr Tate is also upset by the spread of "pervasive relativism". In one of his definitions — "that morality is largely a matter of taste or opinion" — he has a right to be upset. In another, over the hesitancy of trainee teachers imposing ethnocentric, class or gender values he is wrong. Not all such values are universal. Trainees are right to be wary of imposing them. He misjudges, too, the importance of fostering "self esteem" — a sense of identity and self-worth are crucial in building up a child's self confidence. Without such confidence, children's progress is severely restricted.

The curriculum bosses seemed divided over their aims. Sir Ron Dearing, the chairman, insisted the curriculum authority did not want to impose a rigid moral standard. Yet Dr Tate, the chief executive, seemed eager to set up a national forum that could draw up a modern day version of the Ten Commandments for schools. Dr Tate should take more care: only last year his boss promised schools there would be no further changes to the school curriculum for five years. Breaking promises is morally wrong.

What was missing from yesterday's speeches was a tribute to the underlying morality of the British public. For over a decade they have been encouraged to pursue individual rather than collective goals yet the polls still show a large majority in favour of helping the poor, disadvantaged, and dispossessed. Ministers should take note: a fairer society would be a more moral society.

The fly on Covent Garden's wall

The BBC series is not a pretty sight, but don't shoot the singer

NOT content with giving us the truth about the Gulf War, or at least a version of it, the BBC this evening also offers the inside story of yet another dirty conflict of our times — the battle to defend the Royal Opera House against its enemies and itself. BBC2's *The House* is gripping stuff for opera and ballet lovers and is obligatory watching for anyone with an interest in arts politics generally. But its real interest is as a not untypical case study of the crisis facing our national institutions as a result of the enforced contraction of the postwar British state brought about by the Thatcherite revolution.

Covent Garden's general director, Jeremy Isaacs, is to be congratulated for letting the cameras into the Opera House. As viewers will see, and as Mr Isaacs has since conceded, his openness allows some pretty dirty linen to be scrubbed in public. The picture of the flagship of British artistic life which emerges is not particularly flattering. Some of the Opera House's most senior managers emerge in a shameful light. But these horrors mean that one's respect for Covent Garden's poor bloody infantry only increases. Theatres are kept going by dozens of normally unseen people whose dexterity, ingenuity and commitment, invariably on much lower salaries than most of the people who fill the theatre's seats, is quite extraordinary.

It has to be faced that the BBC series will do Covent Garden no political favours at a difficult time. The Royal

Opera House which we see in these programmes is in many ways a disgrace, and the recent serious cuts imposed by Mr Isaacs can only add to the impression of an institution which is not up to the managerial mark. But don't shoot the singer; he doesn't write the song, and artistically Covent Garden is going through a purple patch. The problem is that in any publicly funded service (whether Covent Garden or the NHS) we get what we pay for. The crisis — and it is not the wrong word for the present state of the Opera House — exists principally because Britain elects governments which enact lower public spending and cuts in personal taxes. Elsewhere in Europe, governments and capital cities recognise the importance of their arts flagships and subsidise them properly. Here we do not have such governments, and as even Lord Howe now admits, we suffer because the same government has ensured that our capital has no voice either. High time for a stakeholder opera house, perhaps?

The tragedy of Covent Garden is only partly the tragedy of weak and willful management revealed in the films. The wider tragedy is that of our institutions in general. If only more of our national flagships — not least the BBC itself — were as ready to bare themselves to the viewers we would see very similar things. Such openness is common in the United States — hence the fascinating *Gulf War* series — but it remains the exception rather than the rule here.

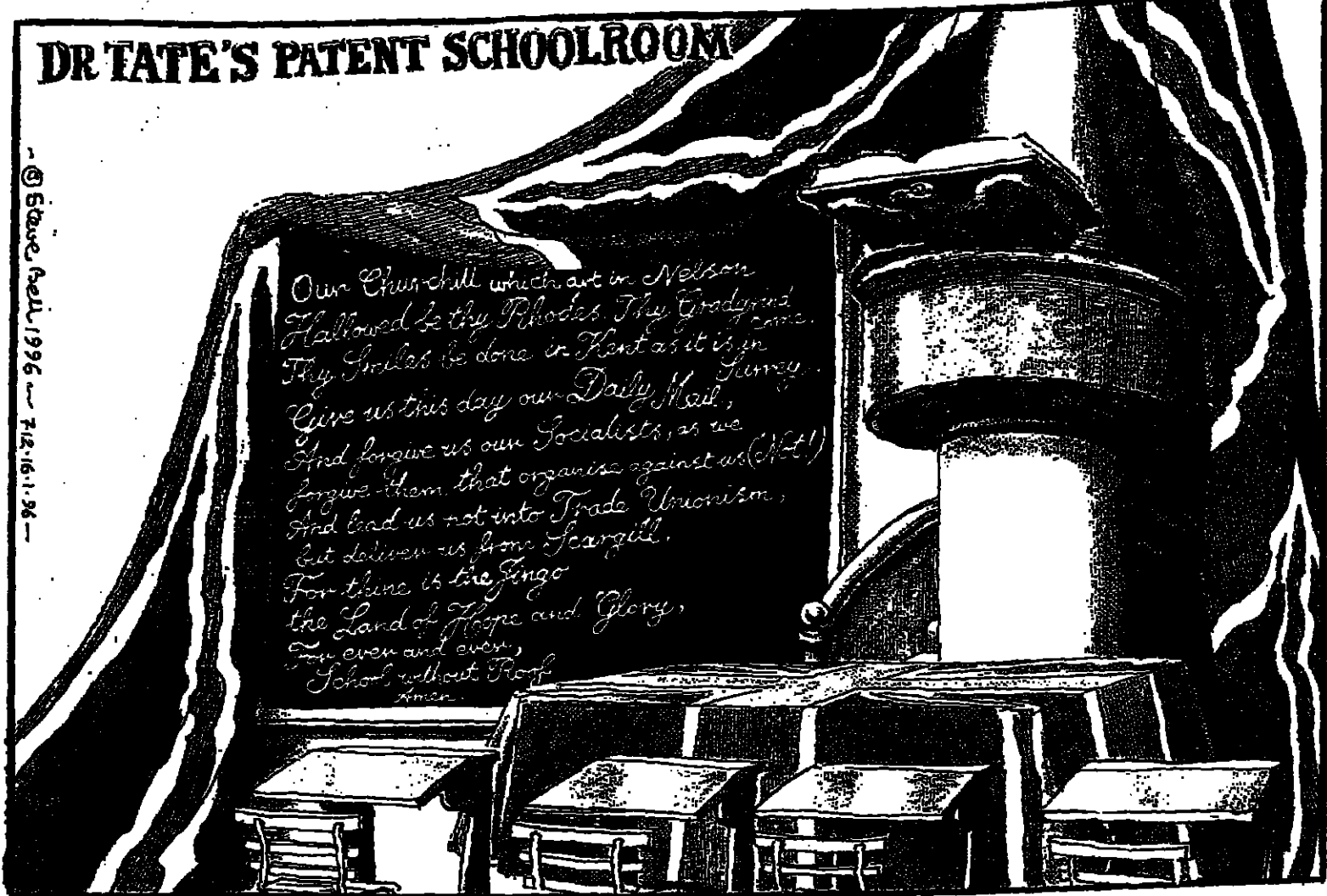
An organisation crippled by debt

A small levy on air travel is a good way of funding the UN

DR BOUTROS-Ghali is on the war path, and rightly so. None too late, the UN Secretary-General is speaking out strongly about the world body's perilous finances and is accusing member governments of enfeebling the United Nations by failing to pay their dues. In several speeches and interviews in Britain over the past few days Dr Boutros-Ghali has argued that the UN is being corroded from within, and that its "serious financial crisis is undermining its effectiveness". This is not to be dismissed, as some Americans do, as bleating from a Secretary-General whose organisation has been under heavy fire, not least for its performance in Bosnia. There is, unsurprisingly, a direct link between any organisation's financial resources and its ability to carry out its tasks. The UN is in debt to the staggering tune of \$2.5 billion — there is a \$1 billion deficit on the regular budget and a \$1.5 billion deficit

on the peacekeeping budget. The United States, alone owes \$1 billion. Russia is another important culprit. Economies and financial gymnastics have enabled the UN to stay afloat so far. But the time cannot be far off when Boutros-Ghali will have to do a "Clinton" and lay off his world-wide bureaucracy.

The difficulties of persuading the US and other key member countries to meet their commitments are well known. Proposals for supplementing the UN's income to give it a measure of financial independence have been comprehensively ignored. Dr Boutros-Ghali is now seeking to revive two of them: a stamp tax on passports; or a levy on international flight and rail tickets. This deserves to be taken seriously. The individual amounts charged would be small: at most £1 and its equivalent in other currencies. It would be a cheap price to pay to sustain the integrity and independence of the United Nations.



Letters to the Editor

Tony Blair's stake in the future

AS THE director of the UK's most radical free-market and civil-liberties think-tank, I find Michael Heseltine's attacks on Tony Blair's stakeholder economy most peculiar (Singapore Straits Times, January 9).

Clearly Mr Heseltine has forgotten that the most successful high-street retailer is the John Lewis Partnership and that other household names such as BUPA, PFP, the AA, and the Co-operative movement — which are grounded upon the principles of mutuality and member and/or worker co-operation.

Does Mr Heseltine really believe he is going to help the Tories win the next election by persuading the British people that BUPA and the John Lewis Partnership represent a dangerous return to the state corporatism of the 1970s? Or, indeed, that health and welfare provided by a trade-union friendly society is reminiscent of Soviet-style economics?

Director,
Libertarian Alliance,
25 Chapter Chambers,
Enderbrooke Street,
London SW1P 4NN.

IT IS deeply gratifying to us Liberal Democrat trade unionists to see that Andrew Gable and Gavin Kelly (How to raise the stakes, January 15) have re-discovered principles set out by the Liberal Party nearly 70 years ago in the Yellow Book — Britain's Industrial Future, 1928.

I see that Ofa's Dyke is up for sale among the assets from the privatisation of British Coal. While deploring the ravages of Tory privatisations, we have never been against private ownership per se but against private ownership of the public good.

We have always stood for partnership in industry between employer and employee, employee share-ownership and consultation of the workforce, and we have now embraced the concept of a minimum wage — a minimum hourly rate, weighted regionally — which was set out by our predecessors all those years ago.

(Cllr) Pamela Sylvester,
ALDTU News Editor,
7 Salisbury Street,
Cranborne, Dorset.

THIS worker co-operative movement, as Will Hutton rightly says (Comment Page, January 9), has continued to embody the values of worker participation, equal opportunities, an ethical approach to business and of being deeply rooted in the regions they serve.

Despite the antipathetic climate, co-operatives are doing well and moving into areas where an ethical approach and the involvement of all stakeholders leads to good business for everyone. The existence of scores of home-co-operatives in the UK and of highly successful ventures like Greenwich Leisure, where seven local authority leisure centres are now in democratic employee control, are testimony to this.

Helen Seymour,
Charlie Cattell,
Industrial Common Ownership Movement,
Vassall House,
20 Central Road,
Leeds LS1 6DE.

LISTEN with incredulity to what John Major has said about the privatised utilities in response to Tony Blair's stakeholder idea: "more efficient", "customers getting a better service", "people believing they have a stake in them". I have just taken early retirement from British Gas after 30 years' service. "Efficiency" seems to equate with fewer employees. But much of the work which was carried out in BG is no longer done. "Better service" seems to be judged merely by price and, in real terms, gas prices have come down. But how many customers could honestly say that the service is getting better? Certainly very few employees would. And who believes they have "a stake" in

any of the utilities? The over-paid chairman and directors? I can only hope that Will Hutton's analysis of Tony Blair's stakeholder economy is right.

Richard Dyer-Smith,
9 Albert Road,
New Milton,
Hants BH25 6SP.

AS TONY Blair distances himself from socialism and the trade unions, presumably this means tying the working class to the stake of the Japanese CBI and big business in general.

No wonder Arthur Scargill's proposals for a real socialist party makes sense — particularly in Scotland, where the original Labour Party was started.

Ron Brown,
18 Denham Green Terrace,
Leith 5.

AS YOU can see from my address I am not in prison, so I don't expect you will want to publish this letter. However, here goes.

A stakeholder is someone holding the stakes of a wager. "Stakeholder society" is a nonsense phrase, a tired Tony's Singapore slip for "shareholder society", which seems favour of the year in both parties.

J D Taylor,
63 Burnaby Wood Lane,
Scunthorpe.

STEPHEN Pollard's article on selective schooling rings very true. The educational hierarchy of advisers, inspectors etc as usual gave no lead when comprehensive education came in, for they owe their soft jobs to jumping on the latest bandwagon.

Our schools are obsessed with the vanished Empire ethos of prefects, house colours, the effortlessly superior amateur etc. Teachers opposed the comprehensive system but they don't count. They are just left to make the best of every theoretical mistake forced on them.

John Taylor,
63 Burnaby Wood Lane,
Scunthorpe.

AS A governor of two primary schools in the London Borough of Barnet I am very concerned about the effect increased selection procedures would have on both schools. Do parents really want their children subjected to stressful tests and interviews, possibly for a number of schools?

Surely what parents want is the certainty that their local school will be able to offer all children an excellent education, whatever their particular abilities and needs.

Elizabeth Pearson,
Jansons Road,
Barnet,
Herts EN5 1DX.

Heavenly fathers

THERE is no problem about bishops' palaces and the problem of those who live in them. So many of the present bunch are either angst-ridden liberals desperate to be politically correct or po-faced Evangelicals with puritanical instincts that it is hardly surprising they fail to use their palaces properly.

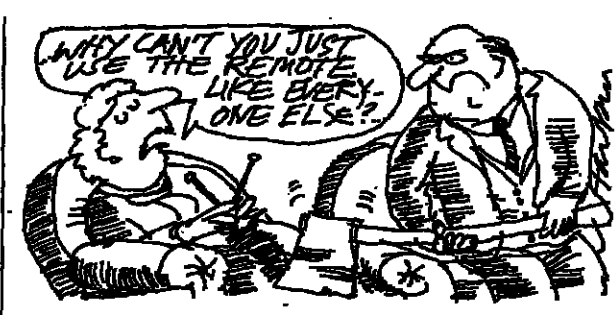
The episcopal residence should be the social centre of the diocese, where the bishop entertains — with as much style as he can muster — his clergy. This is part of his duty to be shepherd to the sheep, his herald. But usually the palace sees only the comings and goings of clerical bureaucrats and the grandees of local business and politics. The inferior clergy (unless in trouble or after a job) are kept well away.

That the Establishment Church should be thinking of selling off its palatial assets at the bottom of the property market is, of course, entirely consistent with its record of financial acumen. It did the same thing in the 1980s with its finest vicarages and rectories. But the Church of England does not need little houses for its bishops: it needs some bishops of stature and vision to fill its priceless cathedra.

(Rev Fr) Francis A CS Bown,
St Stephen's Presbytery,
29 Westbourne Avenue,
Kingston-upon-Hull,
Yorks HU5 3HN.

MY STARTING point in theology has always been the belief that the best clue to the nature of God lies in my own. To believe I cannot and will not be more unpleasant than I am. If I do not will the damnation of any soul, not even that of Adolf Hitler, then the notion of some sort of everlasting holocaust is so at variance with what I know of myself as to render it wholly unbelievable of the God who said: "Fear not, I am the first and the last." I recall an epitaph on a tombstone which summed it up along the following lines:

Here lies Martin Elginbrod,
Have mercy on my soul, Lord God.
As I would, were I Lord God,
And you were Martin Elginbrod.
(Fr) Gary Dobbin,
Chaplain, Christ's Hospital,
Horsham, W Sussex RH13 7LS.



A licence to kill Auntie

YOU ask if the BBC has got a future (King blunt must die to Europe, Outlook, January 13). I sincerely hope not.

You call it an "escalating and regressive tax", but you fail to note that the licence fee is used without any form of public accountability to fund an exorbitant fee and salaries to the likes of the (little-talented) Dimbleby dynasty. Noel Edmonds, Jimmy Savile, Gloria Hunniford etc whom no self-respecting commercial

More crashes on the Newbury road

MY have blown their "green" credentials at Newbury with both the local MP and the Lib-Dem leader of the local council slaying for tougher policing to halt the anti-road protest there.

And haven't the police once more been cast as this Government's hired heavies? It's more than a year since John McGregor, then Transport Secretary, publicly hoped that Michael Howard's repressive Criminal Justice Act would be targeted on anti-road groups. Finally, at Newbury last week, he got his wish — from "even-handed" police who had mostly been standing off in a civil dispute which has little or no criminal content — until some red-faced Whitehall blimp doubtless ordered them to get stuck in. So much, then, for the "honourable British tradition" of protest.

ET Jones,
50 Daneman Road,
Wanstead E11 2RF.

DON'T go round Newbury — go over it. The proposed road does not just bypass the town, it also bypasses several miles of

perfectly serviceable dual carriageway. This could easily join a mile of elevated highway similar to the M4 at Chiswick, the M6 at Birmingham or the M1 at Sheffield — above the existing A34 through Newbury town centre. It would then require a modest road scheme south of Newbury, coupled with two miles of tunnelling, to complete the scheme.

It is true that elevated roads are expensive but the proposed road already includes major bridges over the environmentally sensitive Kennet and Lambourn rivers. An elevated road could carry a lot more semi-local traffic than a bypass and, thus, assuming predictions of traffic increase come to pass, relieve pressure on the town centre for many more years.

Dave Headley,
44 Cowell Road,
Faringdon,
Oxon SN7 7JX.

Fit for nothing

PEOPLE used to keep fit for free by walking and cycling or hitting a ball about (Iron in the soul, Review, January 12). But the open spaces and quiet local streets needed for this have been sold off to developers and overrun by the great car economy. The new fitness industry is, in effect, a privatisation of exercise allowing only those who can afford it an expensive substitute for the lack of a healthy environment for all.

The result, as the Physical Activity Task Force set up by the Department of Health recently pointed out, is that a quarter of schoolchildren are so unfit they are likely to start succumbing to heart attacks in their 30s. What Lady Thatcher doesn't see is that what we have all lost from her attacks on the intricate network of things which make up an unmonetised "quality of life" far outweighs what a few have gained from privatisation of what used to be public assets.

Joan Hanna,
Jansons Road,
London N15 4JU.

A Country Diary

SOMERSET. The discovery of the village Friendly Society's banner has awakened memories of times past, when most of the cottages were lived in by local people who worked on the manor estate rather than by late incomers (like ourselves). There is some nostalgia for the paternalistic style of the community that the village was then. The activities of the local hunt look to an ignorant onlooker to have been largely untouched by time, except for the Range Rovers and modern horseboxes at the roadside. As you back away to wait in the ditch for the great procession to pass by — hounds, huntsman, master, members of the Hunt, and so on down the hierarchy to the youngsters in tweed hacking jackets — the hunters acknowledge you gravely from their great height by raising their crops. It is hard not to touch the forelock. Motorists seem to accept this particular kind of delay (like tractors, sheep and cows) philosophically, but to

regard pedestrians as legitimate quarry. And whilst there are still plenty of coverters for the fox to make for, there are few pavements for the fleeing pedestrian. Because Templecombe Station was miraculously resurrected after Beeching, he can still escape to a rural railway. The sign still says "British Rail" not "Stagecoach", and you can still climb the steps to a happily welcome in the sign-box where you buy your ticket, waiting, if necessary, till the versatile railwayman has finished pulling the levers. In the garden is the sculpture which forms a working sundial. Its central figure is another railwayman who holds a ring-bound timetable. Some of its leaves have been blown away, and lie embedded in the lawn to make the numerals of the sundial. People are anxious about what may happen to the real timetables after privatisation. I hope the fact that the carved ones are tablets of stone, and virtually immovable, is a good augury.

JOHN VALLINS

صكسان الاميل

Diary
Matthew Norman

I AM enchanted by the emergence as a public figure of Britain's most envied woman. As Vanessa Perry told the Daily Express, being Michael Winner's consort means spending much time in restaurants, listening to the old boy screaming: "Do you know who I am?" at baffled waiters. Oddly, Vanessa says she has no plans to marry or start a family (alas, the writer shamefully dwells on Michael's extraordinarily low sperm count). However, fascinating as this is, my eye is particularly caught by a quote reproduced from Michael's Sunday Times restaurant column. About a meal at the Dorchester, he wrote: "Vanessa's chicken breast had a bone sticking out, which frightened her and had to be removed. We sympathise, of course, with her suffering of such a *recherché* phobia. But how peculiar that a woman who can tolerate the naked Michael Winner should become distraught with panic at the sight of an erect bone of poultry."

An anonymous BBC employee calls to confirm that the Vision Efficiency Office, Mr Blair's latest fine idea, does exist. When fully set up, it will be run by management consultants McKinsey, under the aegis of personnel director Margaret Salmon. As to its main purpose, you will be astonished to learn that this is to do grammar-making jobs.

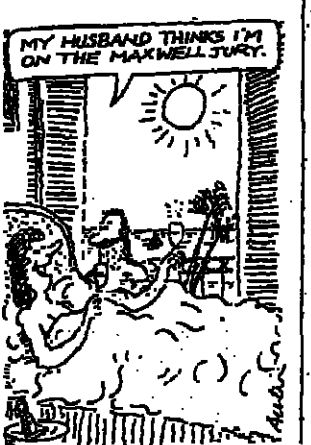
CRUSHING those allegations of princely infidelity with disdain, my friend Paul Johnson declares himself a believer in the Queen and Prince Philip's marriage in the Daily Mail. There is, he advises, absolutely nothing to worry about. How tremendously comforting this is... and yet, some at the Palace are not reassured. "Isn't that the best who dismissed the possibility of a sexual revolution in 1963?" Prince Philip was heard to splutter over his breakfast yesterday. "The same bloody fool who predicted Colin Powell would become President the very day he stepped out of the race?" It is believed that the marriage is secure for the moment, but that divorce lawyers will be consulted should Paul write so much as another sentence of support.

INTRIGUED as to whether she is concerned that the Sarah Bradford book may have stolen her thunder, I call biographer Kitty Kelley, whose own work is expected shortly in Washington. Her answer- phone is on. It is playing God Save The Queen at great volume. Whatever can this mean?

IN shock news from India, the singer Samantha Fox has been banned. The communist-led government of West Bengal has refused to allow Sam to sing at a charity function in Calcutta, and Indian news agencies quote a spokesman for the Marxist CPI-M party describing our Sam's stage performance as "undignified". Tempting as it is to point out that there is nothing new in this harsh treatment — that in fact Sam has always had her knockers — it's a very old joke, and this isn't the place for it anyway.

THE pressures of stardom plague my friend Ann Widdecombe, from whose ruby lips BBC journalists heard her moaning about her boss, Michael Howard only lets her go on telly, she said, when he wants her to do his dirty work. This is unfair. Hours before he instructed her never to speak to the press again, Mrs Howard told me that her son is incapable of selfishness, and is indeed a wonderful son. She added that she worries terribly about his colds. So then, if only Ann showed less concern for her image and more for the contents of Michael's Kleenex, her working relationship would be greatly improved.

PREVIOUSLY unheard-of loyalist group has emerged in Ulster, according to the Evening Herald. The group claimed responsibility last week for beating a young County Down man with baseball bats. It calls itself "Loyalists against thuggery".



Synchronised swims in murky grey water

Commentary Hugo Young

THE ELECTION campaign has begun with the politics of painless solutions. The first battle is for the ownership of unchallenging words. It is being conducted in language that's far from anaesthetic, set in a future which is made to sound full of the most apocalyptic menace. Gallup tells us that the voters are preparing for a dirty election, which they say they abominate. But we're on notice to prepare for something else: an election in which the discrepancy between words and action, between the terminal passion of the one and utter imprecision of the other, is hopelessly bewildering.

This confusion is not banished by the willingness of the two main participants to show us what they're doing. At present the words are "one-nation" and "stake-holding". But the contest is, by design, vacuous. The entire point of the deployment of these words is that they

should be as inclusive and therefore as empty as possible. Nothing new in that, you may say. What is newer is the candid performance of the protagonists. They've already pulled aside the curtain to let us see, unusually, the stage machinery. Both John Major and Tony Blair are dealing in parodies, of each other and themselves, as they hardly trouble to conceal.

Mr Major was first into the field. What excited him about Blair's reference to stake-holding wasn't so much its content as the tactical opportunity it presented: not the policy itself but the amazing fact, at which the Prime Minister could be seen salivating on nationwide television, that his opponent had made his first "fundamental political error", by announcing a policy that dared put clear water between Labour and the Tories. Major the tactician was entranced. For the first time in months, uncontrollable excitement lit his gaze.

He was talking. It must be said, to an audience of business people, whose faltering support threatens the Tory party with bankruptcy. No doubt he felt the need to explain to them that Blair, in Singapore, had shown his colours as a man no capitalist should rely on. But businessmen aren't children. What struck some of them, having read the Blair speech, was

that in all but a paragraph or two, it could have been delivered as easily by Mr Major. This is also, I understand, what privately struck Mr Major as well. If words have meaning, the water between them on everything to do with the economy and quite a lot to do with social reform, is of murkiest grey. They sail the same ocean in convoy, their compasses quite similarly set. As a fusion between the stake-holding, which is Blair's word, and the one-nation, which is Major's, the Singapore speech could not be improved on.

But then Blair showed an equal willingness, the very mirror of the Prime Minister's, to de-mythify his own game. Yes, he told David Frost on Sunday, stake-holding could be called a "slogan". He didn't mind that. And actually, as now expressed, that is what it is. This can be seen as more proof of Blair's disarming honesty. He openly admits that stake-holding is not his big idea but his buzz word, his unifying theme, the catchy feel-good number — a little more sharp-edged than "community", a little less socialistically offensive than "shareholder" — with which he hopes to ensnare the collective brain of Britain. But the absence of any content — and the capacity of the leader to sound messianically convinced by the sumptuous void

he is describing — already speaks for an election campaign which, while it will doubtless be personally dirty, takes no risk with the pain of social and economic reality.

Stake-holding, it is true, may still be an embryonic concept. Perhaps, in the well-ordered tradition of the Labour Party, there are policy-groups merely awaiting the signal to come forward with precise plans that give body and meaning to the stake-holder of the future.

First, perhaps, comes the work of the Prime Minister. Truly there is no limit to the travesties a desperate party will shamelessly deploy in order to keep control of language which, whatever Mr Major would like to think, most people know it has betrayed.

This betrayal, I suppose, is what gives Mr Blair the confidence that he and not his enemy is now the true owner of these feel-good words. Talk of the one-nation Labour Party is rather less incredible than propelling the Tory, still less the Thatcherite, stakeholder to centre stage. But also no more meaningful.

of "stake-holding" will be more obvious than the new horizons it promises to open up.

These word-games are, of course, familiar tools of politicians when the election machine starts cranking into action. But this time, I think, they have started sooner, carrying heavier momentum, than they have done before. Already the whole of politics, day and night, is taken up with them. Already Mr Hesel-

proposes to stress the importance of the two-parent family among the values which he wants to lay before children. Since it seems that most children do not want their parents to part, quite likely they will agree with him. But there is not a great deal that they can do about it, and when they themselves grow up their own situation may not become any easier. Dr Tate does not, of course, see this increased mobility of life as being the cause of a moral decline that worries him. His own preferred explanation is simply political correctness among teachers. He sees a kind of confused relativism which makes them think it "judgmental" to say that anything is actually wrong: a "morass of moral relativism" he puts down partly to "our failure to make up for past injustices against racial, religious or other minorities", and partly to the decline in religious faith.

This is not a stupid point, but it is largely irrelevant to the teaching problem. Confused relativism of this kind is indeed very common in the modern world, and the only thing to be said for it is that it is less destructive than the equally confused savage bigotry which seems to many people to be the only alternative to it.

We now live in a world that constantly presents us with strange customs and strange

time spends his hours staring into the camera to persuade us that stakeholder Blair is not only a proxy for trade union power but was once an extreme leftist: something Heseltine not only knows to be false but also knows a high proportion of his viewers will understand for what it is: garbage. Mr Lilley, likewise, shows into the microphone to explain that when Lady Thatcher ridiculed one-nationism last week, she neither said nor intended to say a single thing to destabilise the Prime Minister. Truly there is no limit to the travesties a desperate party will shamelessly deploy in order to keep control of language which, whatever Mr Major would like to think, most people know it has betrayed.

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We now live in a world that constantly presents us with strange customs and strange

Moral points that need to be made to children are not, generally speaking, obscure

cultures. We have to form judgments about them in a way that our ancestors would have had to, so tradition is often little help to us. All-round knee-jerk tolerance is certainly not an adequate response to this situation, but all-round knee-jerk intolerance is a good deal worse.

The problem that faces teachers and anyone else who has to talk to people with backgrounds unlike their own, is that of coming near enough to their hearer's position to be understandable. The language that judges address to offenders in the dock is, by and large, not understandable to them. It is the tongue of an alien race. Approval and disapproval only come home to people when those who express them appear to some extent to be fellow human beings. Again, the moral points that need to be made to children are not, generally speaking, obscure marginal ones that differ with cultures and raise problems about relativism. They are central ones involving the Golden Rule, the notion that "You don't do to others what you would not want done to you". A rule which is common to all the cultures that are likely to be involved.

But this notion does have to be put in language that is not alien to the children. If Dr Tate sets up a committee which would probably not contain any children — to agree on some set of universal values for schools, it does not seem very likely that the language they use will pass this test.

Dr Mary Midgley is a retired Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at Newcastle University, and author of *Wickedness* (Routledge) and *Can't We Make Moral Judgments?* (Duckworth)

Mirror, Sun, on the wall, who's the fairest?



Catherine Bennett

TOWARDS the end of her Panorama confessionals, Princess Diana was asked why she had decided to give the interview. After all, she had just described her treatment by the press as "abusive" and "harassment". Why volunteer for more? Pure public-spiritedness. People doubted her, the Princess explained. She wanted to reassure "the man on the street, yep, because that's what matters more than anything else". More than the dignity and privacy of her children anyway, that much was clear.

Her feelings were relayed to over 22 million people. Last week, Dr Klaus Wagner, a man who likes to stand in the street outside the Chelsea Harbour Club, was banned from SW6. Although most of us generally give this Sloane-infused hell-hole the widest possible berth for Wagner's exile is punishment indeed. According to his placard, he urgently needs the Princess to notice him: "You've got the power, use it!" Perhaps an alert policeman spotted that Wagner's injunction is uncomfortably similar to a phrase in the *Silence Of The Lambs*. In Thomas Harris's novel Senator Martin uses the media in an attempt to speak directly to the lunatic who has abducted her daughter. "You have the power," she flatters him.

Wagner's own, sinister behaviour illustrates the justice of the rest of his message: "Please take some advice on your image problem. How to tackle the press." Diana's approach to publicity has always been cautious, but recently her relations with the media and, through them, with her public, have become a wretched, one-woman circus. She retires from public life, then demands a comeback. She admits to assisting Andrew Morton, but deplores her husband's excursion with Jonathan Dimbleby. She begs Lord Wakeham to defend her privacy — then makes a playful, unsolicited phone call to the *News of the World's* royal correspondents. One day she is snapped weeping piteously in the streets; the following night she is beaming love-rays at the homeless — and an audience of photographers. From one hour to the next it is never clear whether the press is "dabbling in the stuff of people's souls" or if the Princess is "invading her own privacy" — as Lord McGregor has so neatly de-

fined the extremes of reporting on Princess Diana. Now she is said to be considering injunctions against the photographers who share her demanding round of exercise, counselling and holidays. How do we know? Because the news has somehow arrived at the Sunday Telegraph. As usual, Diana's timing is perfect. Her protests come in the wake of sympathy for Princess Anne, who has her own tormentor, and for Susie Orbach, besieged in Belize Park. Better still, the Times is recycling some stale gossip about Prince Philip. AN Wilson has already posed the inevitable question — "whether the time has not come to bring in a privacy law".

For sisters Anne, and grumpy Philip, one must feel some sympathy. Neither has offered up their souls for dabbling, or affected intimacy with the man on the street. But time has shown Princess Diana to be one of those many celebrities with a compulsive desire for self-implication, which must then be disguised as victimhood. Few of us are entirely free of the Pooterish desire for recognition; most will remember the childish thrill of seeing our name in print. Local newspapers depend upon this harmless need for validation: moreover, without exhibitionists there would be no *Blind Date*, no *My Kind Of People* — no fly-on-the-wall documentaries about students, soldiers, or the Royal Opera House.

MATEURS and minor celebrities can be honest enough about their craving for exposure. After a libel action against the *People* brought Mona Bauwens a degree of notoriety, she could not would not — return to obscurity. "It's very difficult, if you've had your two seconds of glory, not to want a little bit more."

Such honesty is rare among our more prominent show-offs. Hugh Grant, once so open to enquiries, and so free with sassy ripostes, now unkindly describes "the sound of knuckles scraping as the British press left my flat and headed for Hampstead". The journalists were in pursuit of Emma Thompson, who graciously undresses and emotes for *Vanity Fair*, but tells the *Mail* on Sunday that press intrusion is "very bad manners... I'm affronted by it, and I won't countenance it any more". Let's wait until her next film, eh?

Would such skilled practitioners benefit from a privacy law? The current situation may be grotesquely contradictory, but it allows its willing victims the pleasure of reluctant fame, as they tour the television studios following "I want to be alone". What they want is not a privacy law, but a publicity-on-their-own-terms law. It works fine in *Hello!*, but it might look odd on the statute book.



ILLUSTRATION: GEOFF GRANDFIELD

Rights and wrongs

Mary Midgley argues that the Government's proposed 'framework' of morals to be taught in schools is fine as far as frameworks go. But will the children listen? Or understand?

COGNITIVE dissonance — which is the painful state induced by holding two opinions that clash — is notorious for not usually making its victims rethink those opinions. Instead, it commonly sets them singing loud hymns in bond-forming rituals which help them to forget their little difficulty.

When these victims are in charge of education in a Conservative government, or advising those who are, their hymns tend to concern the distressing fact that school-teachers have not yet managed to inject traditional morality into their pupils. John Patten complained about this failure three years ago when he was Secretary of State for Education. He demanded

the reciting of moral maxims that produced this order. But the fact that teachers could recite these maxims with conviction was a consequence of more ordered conditions, not the cause. Even up to the middle of this century, children mostly lived in much more static communities. They tended to pass their lives among a single set of people, people whom they knew and whose opinion was important to them. They had customs to guide them. This more static — sometimes stagnant — way of life was certainly not a utopia. It encouraged its own sort of virtues, some of them very serious.

But it did indeed in general produce greater order, and firmer limitations on what conduct was possible. The reason this traditional order has been eroded is not that individuals have become morally feeble. The economic reshaping of the world has simply carried away traditional structures on its tide. Our lives today have become mobile and... in the current buzzword — flexible in a way that no previous generation's ever were. Of course, this

huge change is not the work of the present Government. It has come about, as large changes often do, in a way that no doubt nobody ever exactly intended. But Conservative thought, in its current, libertarian phase, most emphatically approves of this flexibility and demands it of us. It sees "labour" as a liquid commodity, expected to flow anywhere; and it praises character traits, such as enterprise, which are supposed to make it do so.

All this naturally means that, where jobs are scarce, one spouse or other in a family may have to move elsewhere. Or when a particular industry collapses, people may have to move to places where they cannot have their children with them. Again, when women find it easier to get jobs than men do and are expected to work "flexible hours", family life can become extremely difficult. Accordingly, demands for a return to "family values" (which both these Tory moralists stress) come very oddly from a party committed above all to *laissez-faire* economics. Rather touchingly, Dr Tate

UNDERSTANDING THINKER ?

- LOVER [] PATCH
- SHAKE [] EXACT
- ALONE [] SHONE
- SANDS [] PLACE
- GRASS [] BOAST
- CRASH [] FRAME
- WALLS [] LANDS
- SHOUT [] ADORN
- SWAMP [] SMILE



Place a letter between the words which, when substituted for the second letter of each word either side, will create two other words. When all the letters have been found a word can be read downwards. What is the word?

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10 OBITUARIES

Richard Cobb

A Maigret in the archives

RICHARD COBB, who has died aged 78, went into France as a young Englishman. He emerged both as French and English. And as a remarkable historian. He once said that, for him, France fell into two different periods, with a gap in the middle: 1935 to 1939 and 1944 to 1968. It was 1936 when he first went to Paris, but he believed that it was significant because it was about then that there ended French insouciance before the Republic became sombre and scared. From 1939 to 1944 he was absent from France. And 1958 is chosen, not so much for the installation of the Fifth Republic, as by his sense that it was this year which was the symbol of the modernisation of France, which made the country unrecognisable to him (although he continued to go there).

Hours among documents laid the foundation for a great work on the French Revolution

this way I was introduced to my compatriot who spoke French with a Parisian accent and who knew the archives of Paris and the départements better than anyone else. From then on I followed his work and what the Sorbonne professor Marcel Rheinhardt described as "the innumerable children of Monsieur Cobb", articles published in regional reviews, in the memoirs of learned societies, in the reports of obscure academic organisations. All were sustained by a prodigious archival erudition with, as

Cobb himself put it, "footnotes trailing off the end of them like peacock's tails". This passion for documents could create difficulties; on one occasion, working in a rich collection, he found that he had been forgotten, the staff had disappeared and he was locked in. Climbing through a window he rested his foot on the capital "D" of the lettering that emblazoned the building. It fell to the ground and Richard with it. He was not hurt, but for years afterwards the establishment enjoyed the designation "Archives épartementales". It was the mark of "le Cobb". Affection for documents could also create surprises. In 1964 he attacked me violently because I had praised the then prime minister, Pierre Mendès France. "How can you admire a man who wants to return to the Boches?" he shouted, bringing silence to our usual café, opposite the Archives. Imagine therefore my astonishment a few years later, while he was staying with me, when he spoke enthusiastically about Mendès France and told him about the role he had played in assembling the archives communales and at Louviers and in creating the model archives of Evreux. There was no quicker way to Richard's heart. The hours spent among documents laid the foundation for a great creative work on the French Revolution. To begin with there were the large volumes on the revolutionary armies (translated as The People's Armies in 1987). Here Cobb unveiled a new subject he demonstrated a new approach, leading



Richard Cobb... a quest to uncover history's forgotten men and women

successive generations of historians to abandon the idea that French history should be studied from Paris, and he displayed a new vision as he looked at the role played by individuals, by the non-commissioned officers of the Ancien Régime, and by those who feared food shortages, conspiracies and betrayals. This was the vision that he went on to cultivate in a series of books, most of which consisted of long essays, in which he sought to explain how people saw events rather than to recount the events themselves, in which he speculated about mental horizons rather than about political principles and aspirations. The revolution was a game that was being played by history's forgotten men and women; it was a theatre where society's marginals jostled each other. When Cobb wrote about the great Paris Exposition of 1937, it was not the architecture that interested him, but the activities of a certain Weidemann, who

murdered some half dozen people at random when he was working as a guide in the German pavilion. When Cobb turned to autobiography, whether in books or in essays, many of the people he wrote about were extraordinary. The cat burglar he met in Dublin, the Black Widow — that Gothic figure of fathomless woe who dominated the common at Tumbidge Wells where he grew up, the murderer who was his friend at Shrewsbury (and the mother whom he murdered). Richard watched them all in

real life as he watched his characters in history. It was no accident that Simonon was a favourite author. Cobb was Commissaire Maigret. When he was torn away from his full-time work in the Archives he became a university lecturer, at Aberystwyth and then at Leeds. He showed himself to be a successful teacher, learned, witty, patient and friendly. But it was above all at Oxford, as a Fellow of Balliol, and as Professor of Modern History, that he won the affection and the admiration of countless stu-

dents, and many distinguished historians today are proud to have been his pupil. Georges Lefebvre, his master in Paris, had told him that historians should not marry. But for once Cobb vigorously contradicted him. Marrying Margaret in 1963, he wrote movingly of how he had found serenity in his family, as all who knew them can testify.

Douglas Johnson

Richard Charles Cobb, historian, born May 20, 1917; died January 15, 1996

King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho Heavy crown to wear

THE DEATH of King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho in a car accident at the age of 57 deprives Africa of a modern-minded monarch who wished to contribute more than was required of him by the country's politicians. Tall, urbane, somewhat eccentric, with left-wing tendencies which caused him always to examine the role of the underdog, his untimely death comes just a year after his reinstatement as king when he might have contributed a good deal to the healing process that Lesotho needs after many years of turbulence. Born as Constantine Bereng Seiso, he was the eldest son of the Paramount Chief of the majority Basotho people. He was educated at Mokhotlong primary school and then at Roma College outside the capital, Maseru. He was brought up a Catholic and in 1954, aged 16, he was sent to Ampleforth. He remained in England going on to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, to read PPE. However, before he could take his degree, he was called home to prepare for his coronation which took place on March 12, 1960. He had already attended the 1958 constitutional conference in London, held to discuss the proposed independence of what was then the British protectorate of Basutoland, and as king he attended another with observer status in 1964. At the third conference held in June 1966 shortly before independence, Moshoeshoe presided with authority and moved towards independence. He was afraid that South Africa would bring an overwhelming influence on his tiny landlocked kingdom. He

warned against achieving independence "as a divided nation, in conditions of incipient or actual violence, and unable to defend [its] proper interests against foreign interference." And he refused to sign the conference report because the new constitution envisaged a purely constitutional monarchy with no responsibility for foreign affairs or defence. From independence granted on October 4, 1966 to the end of apartheid in South Africa, Lesotho was always exceptionally vulnerable to pressures from its giant neighbour, a factor which coloured every aspect of the country's politics and economic life. Even before independence the king was in conflict with the signatories of the 1960 National Party (BNP) who was about to become prime minister of independent Lesotho. Chief Jonathan challenged the king either to forego his political role or to abdicate in favour of his wife Queen Mafahato. The king proposed a referendum on his constitutional position. The two men's differences were patched up briefly, but by December 1966 rioting led Chief Jonathan to place Moshoeshoe under house arrest and accuse him of being in league with the opposition Congress Party of Ntsu Mokhehle. On January 5, 1967 the king signed a document binding him to a constitutional role. However, in 1970 when Jonathan had suspended the constitution, the king addressed an election meeting and urged support for the Congress Party. He was again placed under house arrest. Within two months it was announced that Moshoeshoe was going

into indefinite exile and his wife Queen Mafahato was appointed regent. Moshoeshoe went to Holland but had returned to Lesotho by the end of the year. He had once again signed a document banning him from political activities. It marked the beginning of Chief Jonathan's personal rule, a time when the country repeatedly fell foul of South Africa. In January 1986 Jonathan was ousted in a coup by Major General Justin Lekhanya and another troubled period for Lesotho ensued. Early in 1990 a power struggle developed between Lekhanya and King Moshoeshoe. The king's executive powers were suspended and Moshoeshoe went into his second period of exile, this time to England. However after seven months he was invited to return. AS A CONDITION of his return he insisted that military rule was lifted and an interim government formed in preparation for elections. In response, Lekhanya deposed the king and the country's 22 principal chiefs elected Prince Bereng Seiso, the king's eldest son, to the throne. As King Letsi III he promised, like his father to keep out of politics. In April 1992 the exiled king announced his intention to return to Lesotho. With the agreement of General Ramema, then head of the Military Council, Moshoeshoe returned to Lesotho in July. Arguments about the future of the monarchy led King Letsi III to declare in March 1993 that he was willing to step down in favour of his deposed father. The elections of that month resulted in a landslide victory for the Basotho Congress Party (BCP) of Ntsu Mokhehle which took all 65 seats in the Assembly. Deposed King Moshoeshoe continued to maintain his right to return to the throne. In August 1994 in what amounted to a royal coup King Letsi III dissolved the government of Ntsu Mokhehle and parliament and then suspended part of the constitution. Opponents of the king demanded Lesotho become a republic and petitioned the king to abdicate; under international pressure King Letsi III agreed on September 14 to restore the government of Mokhehle. Letsi then stepped down in favour of his father, King Moshoeshoe was formally restored to the throne on January 25, 1995 while Letsi reverted to his former role as Crown Prince. Addressing a crowd of 10,000 at a ceremony to mark the occasion of his restoration King Moshoeshoe promised reconciliation and peace. This thoughtful and persuasive man arguably had a great deal more to contribute to his country than the politician and generals who ran it.



Moshoeshoe... troubled

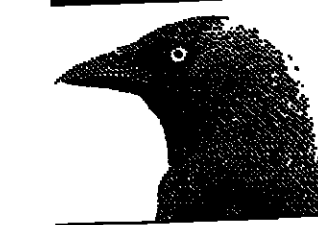
Red Thunder Cloud Legacy of language

CARLOS Westee, who became known as Red Thunder Cloud, a singer and storyteller who made a commitment to the Native American culture played an important part in the widespread spiritual revival among American Indians, has died of a stroke at the age of 76. Most celebrated as the last known speaker of the Catawba American Indian language, Red Thunder Cloud's contribution to American Indian culture came in the 1940s, when he took part in the oral history and linguistics programmes being mounted by the Smithsonian Museum and by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Hoping to preserve something of all the 500 or so different languages believed to have been spoken in North America, the MIT team recorded all that he could remember of the Catawba language. It is distantly related to the Sioux family of languages, and has no written form, according to Carl Tetter, emeritus professor of linguistics at Harvard. Only about 100 languages are still spoken in North America. The Smithsonian recorded a series of Catawba songs, including hunting and war chants and religious songs, which enjoyed a cult success and helped start the current fashion for Native American songs. They are still heard and requested on radio stations on the various reservations. Although Thunder Cloud was believed to be the last speaker of the Catawba lan-

guage, it was not his own mother tongue. He was not an official member of the tribe, though he visited its reservation several times in the 1930s and 1940s, according to Fox Ayers, a friend of Thunder Cloud's and a member of the tribe's executive committee. The Catawba tribe is by no means extinct. Estimates of their numbers still living range from several hundred to more than 1,000. Although the tribe is still registered as an ethnic group by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, its culture and language have largely disappeared. The tribe originally lived in South Carolina and parts of North Carolina and Virginia; its headquarters is in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Much of the film Last of the Mohicans was filmed in the wild hills and mountain country which had been the tribe's traditional area. "I don't think he was that fluent. But he did know the cadence of the language and he had a tremendous vocabulary," said Tom Blumer, the tribe's historian and an editor at the Library of Congress.

Red Thunder Cloud (Carlos Westee), singer and storyteller, born 1919, died January 8, 1996

Jackdaw



Skin flick

IT WAS LATE at night and I was standing in a full carriage, waiting for three skinheads to get on. One was small and mokolorous; one tall and tattooed; and one outrageously fat, like Pavarotti with alopecia. They were drinking from cans of Tennents Extra, laughing and rapping each other on the head with their knuckles, which made rather a pleasing, thinking sound, like breaking the seal on a new coffee jar. The small one sported a badge that said "Smeg". Naturally everyone

averted their eyes. Shoes were stared at, books sunk into papers brought up across faces. Nothing makes you want to be invisible quite so much as drunken skinheads slapping each other's bones and wearing "Smeg" badges. Everything was OK at first. The skinheads continued to abuse each other and discuss in the loudest and most intimate terms what they did with their girlfriends at night, but they showed no signs of leaving anyone else. Things started to unravel at Fulham Broadway, however, when Pavarotti decided he wanted a cigarette. Papers were pressed closer to faces, shoes stared at with mute fascination, buttocks clenched forcefully. The man opposite me squashed his head into shoulders like a peacock. No one said "Sorry, fatty, you can't smoke on the Underground." The skinhead repeated his request (for a light) and then, receiving no response, walked slowly down the aisle putting his question to each

You too

CORPORATE perks are a fact of life. The copy to office. The executive dining room. Such perks can both encourage high-quality work and serve as a reward for a job well done. But they can also serve as a reminder that there is a firm line dividing the corporate "haves" from the "have nots". On a business trip... Martin Belanowski, the president of Metropolitan Hardware, had a seat in first class coach. As the flight progressed, Martin became more and more uncomfortable with this arrangement. He knew it was nothing personal but that didn't make it any less awkward. And he knew he would just wind up embarrassing them both if he brought it up. Their difference in status was simply a fact of corporate life. Just before the plane landed, he had an idea. He got a bottle of champagne and a bouquet of flowers from the first-class flight attendant

Real geeks

WHILE THEY are often into alternative music, geek dudes tend not to go to shows too often. Instead you'll find them hanging out with their friends, discussing the latest hardware revolution or perfecting their Bill Gates impressions. You know how

some people wear T-shirts with their favorite bands on them, thus showing that they went to certain shows? Well, geek dudes wear T-shirts with the logos of different software companies on them. Thus showing that they are up on the latest, um, releases... Of course the best way to meet a geek dude is through the Internet. All geeks harbor a secret fantasy about meeting some girl in cyberspace, carrying on an e-mail romance in which he

has the chance to combine an activity he is comfortable with, computing, with one he is very uncomfortable with, socializing. To many geek dudes, cyberdating is just an advanced form of some kind of video game, but they are frustrated by a lack of players. Their lack is your strength... Many geeks extend their work friendships into what they jokingly refer to as RL (Real Life, also known as "that big room with the ceiling that is sometimes blue and sometimes black with little lights"). The greatest thing about your geek's buddies is that you can feel secure in setting them up with your girlfriends. They may feel awkward around females at first, so don't overwhelm them. In time they will come out of their shell and realise that you are into the same things they are. Because they have been so abused and ignored by society, many geeks have gone underground. You may actually know some and just haven't noticed it. They often feel resentful.

and misunderstood, and it is important to realise this as you grow closer to them. Don't ever try to force the issue, or make crazy demands that he choose between his computer and you. Remember, his computer has been there for him his whole life; you are a new interloper he hasn't quite grasped yet. Advice for geeks and geekgirls from the Sunnyhop Internet site (<http://www.sunnyhop.com>). In his recently published book, Geek extraordinaire Bill Gates tells how he cyberdated a female cyberdude. They would go to the same movies in different cities at the same time, and then, immediately afterwards, discuss the film using e-mail. There's nothing like the warm glow of technology. Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk, fax 0171-733 4366; write to Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER

Dan Glaister



Smegged... Big Issue

سكوات الامم

Golden... HOU... H... Rocco... too la... Post Off... man's w... Ashley bo... management... says Roy

09/12/1994

Tuesday January 16 1995

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Golden share blocks C&W options, page 12

100 up for British car industry, page 12

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Housing recovery 'mirage'

Richard Thomas

HOPES of a recovery in the housing market were dealt a twin blow yesterday when MPs accused the Government of "wishful thinking" about prospects for an upturn and the building industry warned of 20,000 imminent job losses.

In a report on the November Budget, the powerful all-party Treasury select committee said the Budget forecast of a "modest recovery" in the property market this year was unlikely to be realised. The MPs said the Treasury had failed to recognise a structural change in attitudes to home-ownership, which was holding activity and prices down.

"It is essential the Treasury should present a carefully considered, accurate and coherent 'central forecast', not one based on wishful thinking that glosses over major areas of concern," the report states.

The Building Employers Federation added to the gloom, unveiling a survey of 600 construction firms, showing a further decline in activity during the last three months of 1994 and widespread predictions of labour-shedding this year.

Weaker activity could translate into 20,000 job cuts, added to the 500,000 axed since the beginning of the recession in 1989.

Paul Shepherd, chairman of the Federation, said the findings were an "extremely de-

pressing" start to the new year and called for more government action, through cheaper borrowing and more capital spending.

"I strongly urge the Government to take these actions so that workload and employment prospects can improve and the construction industry can begin to climb out of this damaging double-dip recession."

Mr Shepherd was particularly concerned by a continuing decline in the volume of enquiries about new orders,

which suggested the hard-pressed industry had worse to come. The only encouraging sign was a tentative pick-up in the commercial property sector, he said, but residential demand remained flat.

Labour seized on the survey to berate the Government for failing to recognise the impact of the housing market on the wider economy.

"The building industry is a crucial indicator of economic health," said Labour housing spokesman Michael Meacher. "Once again, we see that the

Tory recovery is little more than a mirage."

Lenders blamed the lack of demand on the failure of house values to pick up, forcing more families into negative equity. According to figures released yesterday by the Woolwich building society, the number of households with homes worth less than their mortgages unexpectedly jumped by 40,000 between October and December of last year, to reach 1.16 million.

Peter Robinson, chief executive of the Woolwich group,

said: "The increase in negative equity was a result of the housing market's disappointing performance." He added that negative equity was spreading out from the South of the country to the Midlands and the North.

But the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors holds out some hope for a pick-up in activity. A survey of RICS members working as estate agents, published yesterday, showed that activity slowed less over the Christmas period than in previous years.

Notebook

Lots of stakes but few holders



Edited by Alex Brummer

THE role of the institutions, and Mercury Asset Management in particular, looks unhelpful in the Granada battle for Forte, MAM and its leading lights, Carol Galley and Stephen Zimmerman, appear so fixated on making quick bucks for their investors that they have left other stakeholders — to use the fashionable term — in the dust.

As was the case last year, when there was a genuine independent shareholders revolt at British Gas, the institutions, with voting power exercised in the manner of the large trade unions in an earlier era, are rolling over the democratic rights of everyone else in serious boardroom decisions. A small, unselected clique holds sway over large parts of corporate Britain.

found, upward pressure on margins encourages the growth of discount competitors. It also does nothing to breed customer or client loyalty in consumer markets.

If MAM were a more responsible investor it might take the Warren Buffet approach, which is to invest long-term in companies with strong brands and let the value accumulate over the decades. But its manipulations in the stock market in recent days smack of the recent short-termism that has been so destructive of British companies.

There is a starry-eyed view in the City that what MAM does must be right, because it happens to have built the largest stake. But those who watched self-interest rule last year, when the fate of S G Warburg was in the balance, might take a different view.

Factory gate costs are pushed up by tax rises but underlying inflation shows signs of easing

Richard Thomas

BUDGET increases in taxes on tobacco, petrol and alcohol have pushed up prices of goods leaving the factory gate, according to government figures released yesterday, writes Richard Thomas.

Manufacturers' output prices jumped by 0.8 per cent in December, the Central Statistical Office said — but 0.7 points of that rise were explained by the tax rises. Stripping out food, drinks, cigarettes and fuel,

the monthly increase was 0.2 per cent.

City analysts said the underlying figures indicated an easing of inflationary pressures in the supply chain, which shortened the odds on another cut in interest rates.

Adam Cole, an economist at James Capel, said: "If the strong rebound in retail sales fails to materialise, a further 0.25 per cent reduction in base rates later this week cannot be ruled out."

Chancellor Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, meet tomorrow. Most commentators expect that, after last month's quarter-point cut to 6.5 per cent, Mr Clarke will wait for key data on unemployment and retail prices before loosening policy again.

The City was pleased by signs from the CSO data that global commodity price pressure was easing. Input prices increased by a

seasonally adjusted 0.4 per cent and the annual rise slipped from 6.1 per cent to 5.8 per cent — the lowest level since August 1994.

A slowdown in the pace of raw material price rises helped to explain the rosy outlook, the CSO said.

The annual rise in factory gate prices was unchanged between November and December at 4.3 per cent. Underlying annual inflation fell from 4.6 per cent to 4.3 per cent.

The battle for Forte

Rocco split 'too late'

Ian King

SIR Rocco Forte yesterday bowed to pressure from institutional shareholders by splitting his job of chairman and chief executive, and naming his deputy, Sir Anthony Tennant, as Forte's first non-executive chairman.

Sir Rocco said the decision was "appropriate and timely", given his company's plans to focus on its hotels business in the wake of Granada's £2.8 billion hostile bid.

Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, dismissed the

reshuffle as little more than a titular change, while a host of City institutions said it was "too little, too late".

Forte shares closed down 3p at 366p last night, while Granada's shares were up 7p at 670p, valuing Granada's cash-and-paper offer at 381p — in defiance of the City now expects Granada to win.

Sir Anthony — respected for his work at Guinness following the brewing group's bid for Distillers — becomes chairman on February 1.

Sir Rocco acknowledged that pressure from the City was a key reason behind his decision: "I have been influenced by the opinion expressed to me by a number of our shareholders that they do not believe it is appropriate, for a major listed company such as Forte, for the same individual to hold both positions. I accept this view."



Title boat... Sir Rocco, left, and Sir Anthony say reshuffle is 'appropriate and timely'



Kipper Williams logo

Granada's catering subsidiary, Sutcliffe, yesterday unveiled an exclusive tie-up with La Brioche Doree, France's second-biggest cafe and patisserie chain. Under the plan, Sutcliffe will open 100 branches across Britain.

Post Office rejects sell-off move

Simon Bewis
Industrial Editor

THE Post Office yesterday sent a thinly veiled warning to John Major not to re-open the bruising debate over privatisation amid signs that first and second class stamp prices are soon to be increased by 1p.

New chief executive, John Roberts, made it clear that the organisation was in no mood to rise to the Prime Minister's recent suggestion that its privatisation may be made a manifesto pledge for the next election.

He said the sell-off debate had created turmoil in the

Post Office and was in part behind the recent spate of industrial unrest.

"The issue for me is that the last three years have been a period of uncertainty and a period of uncertainty is not helpful," Mr Roberts said.

Mr Major tried to revive the Post Office privatisation 10 days ago despite the Government's humiliating defeat over the sell-off two years before. The move was widely seen as an attempt to claw back the political initiative in the wake of the defection of Tory MP Emma Nicholson to the Liberal Democrats.

But Mr Roberts said his main priority was to concentrate on the day-to-day

running of the organisation. He said directors would be doing no more than "ticking what he has said", adding: "Privatisation will only become a distraction if we allow it to become a distraction. We are not going to."

PO chiefs are believed to be in the final stages of deciding by how much to raise the price of stamps in a bid to meet tough new demands for cash from the Treasury.

Rumour is it will announce 1p on first and second class stamps in the early summer, in a move to raise £150 million a year towards the £1 billion of cash being demanded by the Chancellor over the next three years.

First and second class stamps have remained frozen at 25p and 15p for three years. The hike is likely to be accompanied by cutbacks in capital spending and a new push for efficiency savings.

Mr Roberts said that staff numbers — currently standing at 190,000 — were likely to continue falling by 1 per cent a year. But he denied that the Royal Mail was set to make huge cuts in full-time jobs and hire more part-time and casual labour or that he was planning to abolish second deliveries of post. He said that the 26,000 part-time postal workers are likely to be increased by 1,500 over the next few years.

Bank complaints rise 20pc in 1995

Jill Papworth

COMPLAINTS about Britain's high street banks leapt by a third in 1995, according to a report by the Independent Banking Advisory Service.

IBAS, one of a handful of organisations offering help to disgruntled bank customers, received 18,142 complaints last year compared with 15,079 in 1994. Some 92 per cent were business-oriented.

The largest number of complaints (22 per cent) were about alleged dishonesty, incompetence and negligence on the part of the banks. Others included disputes over personal guarantees (18 per cent), intimidation (17 per cent), withdrawal of support (15 per cent) and excessive fees and charges (15 per cent).

The IBAS chief executive, Eddy Weatherill, said some banks were better at customer relations than others.

Barclays tops the complaints league with 27 per

cent of those lodged with IBAS directed against it, up from 24 per cent last year.

"There are strides being made by some banks, while others are standing still," Mr Weatherill said. "There's been a steady decline in the number and type of complaints against the Midland, for example."

"Meanwhile, we've found particular problems with Barclays, which seems to be more interested in procrastinating when a business customer is going down than giving a swift answer."

A spokesperson for Barclays said: "Our latest survey of tens of thousands of our business customers found that 90 per cent were 'satisfied' or 'more than satisfied'."

Stuart Cliffe of the Association of Bank Customers said the ABC had also experienced a spiralling number of complaints over the past year.

"We think it's simply that bank customers have become more aware of their right to complain," he said.

Woman's world in frocks and furnishings

Laura Ashley board has cracked management glass ceiling, says Roger Cowe

LAURA ASHLEY, the woman, was the inspiration for the company named after her, and many feel that it has never been the same since her death on the eve of flotation in 1985.

Now the troubled frock and furnishing company is returning to its feminine roots, as chief executive Ann Iverson completed her management team yesterday with her third and fourth female appointments since she took over last September.

Patricia Manning becomes director of marketing while Deborah Baker will join in March as director of human resources.

They will join Julie Ramshaw, the former investment analyst who was recruited last week as merchandising director, and Basha Cohen, who joined at the beginning of the month as design and buying.

The five women will form a majority on the nine-person executive committee, forcing

a rare crack in the "glass ceiling" which is said to keep women below the highest levels in most organisations.

While Marks & Spencer recently appointed its first female director, no large UK company, even one as female in its product and target audience as Laura Ashley, can boast anything approaching sexual balance in its top management.

Female executive directors are still a rarity, although there is a growing number of exceptions such as Sainsbury, BTR and even Rolls-Royce Motors. Only one in seven top companies has a female on the board, even as a non-executive.

Ms Iverson, a formidable

American who once headed Mothercare and was tempted back from the US to rescue Laura Ashley, insists that she is not striking a blow for feminism. She says she has recruited the best people for the job and has not been concerned whether they are men or women.

One of her many appointments following a no-nonsense clear-out of the previous top team, has been a man — finance director, James Walsh.

The Laura Ashley boss might be more accurately accused of favouring fellow Americans rather than sisters. Mr Walsh, Ms Manning and Ms Cohen are all Americans.

The unhappy customers

	Number of complaints received by IBAS	% of complaints 1995	% of complaints 1994
Barclays	4988	27.0	24.0
NatWest	4627	25.5	24.5
Lloyds	3901	21.5	21.5
RBS	1904	10.5	11.5
Midland	1088	6.0	7.5
TSB	454	2.5	4.0
Yorkshire	272	1.5	2.0
Co-op	182	1.0	1.0
Others	818	4.5	4.0

Feltrim Names are awarded £175m in Lloyd's damages

Pauline Springett

MORE than 1,500 Names who sued over their huge losses in the Lloyd's of London insurance market were yesterday awarded around £175 million damages.

The Names all invested on syndicates run by the Feltrim agency from 1987 to 1988. The losses were due to a series of catastrophes, including Hurricane Hugo and the Piper Alpha oil disaster.

Damon de Lazio, chairman of the Feltrim action group, hailed the high court award against their agents at Lloyd's, made by Mr Justice Longmore, as a victory and predicted they would receive around £150 million.

The discrepancy would occur because not all of the award would trigger insurance payments. Mr de Lazio said the Names would be

granted full indemnity for future losses, possibly eventually totalling £500 million.

Clyde & Co, the law firm representing the insurers who would have to pay most of the award, argued that the Names had not been given full indemnity. The Names were likely to receive a maximum of £130 million, much less than the £237 million of deferred two years ago by Lloyd's in its failed out-of-court offer.

Mr de Lazio disputed this and said Clyde & Co was "putting a brave face" on the offer. He said the litigation could allow the Feltrim investors to claim more than £200 million from Lloyd's out of its £2.8 billion compensation pot.

To claim any money from Lloyd's, the Names would have to waive any rights to the court award. Investors from the Wellington Names Association last week postponed their court case.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS				
Australia 2.01	France 7.36	Italy 2.380	Singapore 2.15	
Austria 16.20	Germany 2.1700	Malta 0.5425	South Africa 5.44	
Belgium 44.40	Greece 363.00	Netherlands 2.4400	Spain 181.00	
Canada 5.65	Hong Kong 11.74	New Zealand 2.29	Sweden 10.05	
Cyprus 0.6500	India 65.27	Norway 9.57	Switzerland 1.74	
Denmark 8.40	Ireland 0.9500	Portugal 227.00	Turkey 86.055	
Finland 6.87	Israel 4.82	Saudi Arabia 3.70	USA 1.5100	

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Deaths

Engagements

Births

Deaths

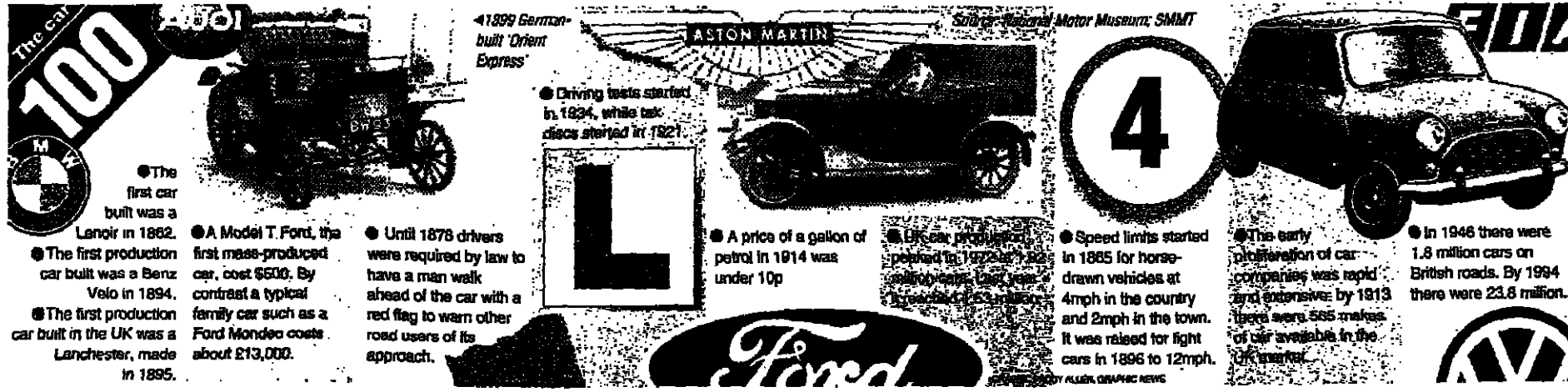
Engagements

Births

Deaths

Engagements

Dan O'Leary



Car era runs out of road

Daimler in the cathedral and politicians in ideological jam mark a less than happy 100th birthday. **Chris Barrie** reports

WHILE anti-road demonstrators gear up for their daily clash with police and workmen over the Newbury bypass, officials at Coventry Cathedral will be finalising preparations for tomorrow's service celebrating the centenary of the British car industry.

Rehearsals are needed to check the turning circle of the 1897 Daimler, one of the first cars to be built in Britain, which will drive down the aisle at the start of the service. It will be followed later by a Peugeot 106 Electric, a symbol of the "internationalisation" — some say disappearance — of the British-owned car industry.

Environmentalists see little reason to give time in a place of worship to a device that killed or injured more than 315,000 people in 1994, the last year for which full statistics are available.

The Church points to the benefits that come with a large industry — employment, wealth creation, mobility — but shows some ambivalence by including in the service reference to the environment.

As if to emphasise official unease, transport ministers will be absent from the service. The Government cannot decide whether to encourage car use or opt for a more imaginative alternative. An official from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said government transport policy "hadn't got any attitude" towards the car.

Transport Secretary Sir George Young has said that public opinion is moving in the direction of better public transport and less road-building. People had to be aware of the consequences of their decisions on travel. "We must get used to asking ourselves whether an individual car journey is really necessary."



Test drive... Museum of British Road Transport crew prepares the Daimler for its big day. PHOTOGRAPH: STUART HARRISON

he said, unless preventive measures were taken.

The car industry is anxious to prevent restraints on its growth. Its campaign is partly based on traditional lobbying — stressing its contribution to the economy — but companies are also tackling the environmental issue head-on.

SMMT president George Simpson has called for government aid in "balancing the debate" on the environment.

Mr Simpson, former head of Rover and now chief executive of the motor components and aerospace group Lucas, said recently that "technological actions in the pipeline will see the problem of emissions in new cars eliminated in the next five years."

Although it cannot solve congestion, the industry has

realised that it can try to take the anxiety out of motoring.

Paolo Cantarella, chief executive officer of Fiat, said that the company's aim was not so much to produce attractive and reliable cars as to develop financial packages and services.

"We have designed cars into our lives and it will take another 30 years to design them out again."

Sir George's focus on the motivation of the individual — is a car journey really necessary? — is a belated recognition within government that attitudes will have to change, and that takes time.

Car ownership matters less than car use. And Britons use their cars intensely. As Mr Joseph put it: "We have developed Californian tastes in a country with the population density of the Netherlands."

C&W barred from seeking foreign chief

Nicholas Bannister
Technology Editor

THE GOVERNMENT has used its golden share in Cable and Wireless to prevent the troubled international telecoms group from looking overseas for a new top management team.

Brian Smith, drafted in as chairman last year to replace the sacked Lord Young, told a shareholders' meeting yesterday that he would have liked the freedom to appoint a non-executive chairman from abroad at some point.

However, the Government had blocked the company's plan to remove the clause in its articles of association which laid down that both the chairman and chief executive must be British.

The Government was only prepared to support a watered-down amendment which stated that either the chairman or the chief executive must be British.

The issue came to a head after the board decided to appoint finance director Rod Olsen, a New Zealander, as acting chief executive until a full-time replacement for James Ross was found.

The compromise amendment was approved at an extraordinary general meeting yesterday. A Department of Trade and Industry spokesman said later that the Government had decided to insist on one of the two top executives being British because it was "in the national interest".

Dr Smith and Mr Olsen also sounded the death-knell for the federation concept developed by Mr Ross and backed by Lord Young.

Mr Olsen, speaking after the meeting, said that the group aimed to rationalise its investments and focus on operations in Europe, Asia and the Caribbean.

He said the federation policy was never a strategy. It was a culture change to give a large number of worldwide companies to act as one, he said. "If the federation adds shareholder value then it will continue; if it does not, as in most cases, it will cease."

Both Dr Smith and Mr Olsen poured cold water on the prospect of a breakup of C&W, a move which has a lot of support among City institutions. Mr Smith said: "It doesn't actually make a great deal of sense as we concentrate on the growth of an international network."

Mr Smith said the shortlist for the chief executive's job had been narrowed down to about eight, some of whom were not in the UK. He expected to be able to announce a decision in a couple of months, but warned that it might be some time before a new chief executive could take over.

He rejected a shareholder's claim that the board had been spineless in not removing the nationality restrictions altogether. He said that the Government had a golden share, effectively giving it the power to veto the necessary changes to the group's articles.

The Government had told the company to go "one step at a time", he said, adding: "They were not happy to agree with the total abolition of the restriction."

Shareholders afraid that Lord Young and Mr Ross might receive multi-million-pound pay-offs were told that negotiations about compensation were continuing. Mr Smith said: "I don't think you will be too dissatisfied with the settlement we reach, provided we can reach it."

IBM and Sears hit by Internet

Mark Tran in New York

THE success of the Internet is forcing IBM and Sears Roebuck, its partner, to reassess their 10-year joint venture in Prodigy, the online computer service.

IBM and Sears have spent \$1 billion (\$648 million) on Prodigy, started in 1984 with a third partner, the CBS television network.

Yet Prodigy has made little money and has been overtaken in recent years by CompuServe and America Online, the industry leader. Microsoft is also gaining rapidly.

Meanwhile, more and more people are bypassing commercial online services in favour of the Internet, the global computer network, where they can tap into huge reams of data. While computer users can get on to the Internet through Prodigy and other online services, they can do so more cheaply through specialist companies called "access providers".

Sears has retained investment bankers to explore selling its 50 per cent stake in Prodigy, seeking as much as \$500 million, and the company's desire to bail out of Prodigy has forced IBM to reappraise its involvement.

IBM officials said the options included buying Sears's stake, finding a new partner or getting out altogether.

Prodigy's recent lacklustre performance, dogged by poor marketing, amateurish graphics and bickering between its parents, puts IBM in a difficult position. Sticking with Prodigy could be expensive, but selling it risks helping a competitor.

Last month, AT&T approached IBM about the possibility of buying Prodigy Services. But IBM was reluctant to sell the service to what it considered a competitor, and AT&T may have lost interest.

The Sears chairman, Arthur Martinez, said he would decide what to do with Sears's stake at the end of the quarter.

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Stripy-shirts feel pinch as financial services cut

OUTLOOK/Pauline Springett on why the money men should look to taking out redundancy insurance

HEAVY job losses, rising profitability and falling operating costs characterised the financial services sector during the last quarter of 1995, according to the latest survey from the Confederation of British Industry.

The report, published yesterday, forecast more of the same for the early months of this year, although it stressed that there were sharp differences between the nine financial services scrutinised.

The survey said that the back end of 1995 had seen the sharpest fall in jobs in financial services for two years. Further heavy cuts were likely, fuelled by a fiercely competitive industry seeking to cut costs.

Sudhir Junankar, the CBI's associate director of economics analysis, said that business optimism among firms in the financial services sector had recovered slightly since September.

This was due to a faster than expected growth in business volumes over the past three months.

"We expect to see a further pick-up in business in coming months, although this is still from a low base as financial services companies continue to regard business conditions as being well below normal," he said.

It was life insurance companies who made the chirpiest noises about the next few months, although securities traders and building societies were also optimistic. The most downbeat were the banks, followed by general insurers and insurance brokers.

The confidence among the life insurers appeared to raise some eyebrows among the CBI team. John Hayes, a partner at the accountancy firm Coopers & Lybrand, which helped put the survey together, pointed out that life insurers were under unprecedented pressure from banks and building societies in the struggle for customers.

"The life industry needs to establish its strategic position somewhat urgently," he said.

The most obvious explanation for the life insurers' relatively rosy view of the world is that they are entering 1996 after a couple of dismal years. The pensions mis-selling scandal knocked the industry for six. That was closely followed by regulatory changes which forced the companies to disclose their commission charges. That regime has now operated for a year and companies and customers are showing signs of coming to terms with it.

Nevertheless, it would be a brave soul who would predict that the life companies were heading for a boom. "I would be a little sceptical about improvement in confidence in the life sector," Mr Hayes said.

Mr Junankar said it was not the aim of the survey to put a figure on the expected job cuts. He said that it was important not to concentrate on overall figures as the forecasts from the different types of financial services sectors revealed very different expectations.

Employment in the banks, for instance, fell sharply and quickly over the past three months, and the banks were warning the trend would continue. General insurers also cut jobs, although not so dramatically.

Life insurers had cut staff quite severely. Although further reductions were planned, these would be less marked. By contrast, employment increased, and is set to continue to rise, in finance houses, building societies, securities trading, and fund management.

The financial services industry as a whole is struggling to keep a grip on costs amid increasing competition, with margins almost flat. Things are likely to get even tougher.

The business is likely to include new-style entrants such as retailers, of which the recent foray into the market by Marks & Spencer is a prime example.

News in brief

Maxwell jurors ill as deliberations go on

SIX Maxwell case jurors were examined by a doctor yesterday after complaints of chest infection. The illnesses were not serious enough to postpone deliberations today, but the judge ordered humidifiers to moisten the air in the jury room. The seven women and five men have now sat for a week without reaching verdicts.

Kevin and Ian Maxwell and financial adviser Larry Trachtenberg deny one charge of conspiring to defraud pension funds by misusing £22 million worth of pensioners' assets between November 5 and November 21, 1991. Kevin denies a second charge of conspiring with his late father Robert to defraud pension funds by misusing £100 million of pensioners' assets between July 3 and November 6, 1991. — *Dan Aikinson*

£1.6bn to develop fresh fields

SEVEN oil and gas fields in the North Sea, 150 miles east of Aberdeen, are to be developed at a cost of £1.6 billion following the Government's decision yesterday to give the go-ahead to the Eastern Trough Area Project. Owned by BP, Shell, Esso, Agip, Murphy, BHP and Mitsubishi Oil, the fields have estimated reserves of 400 million barrels of oil, 35 million barrels of natural gas liquids, and 1.1 trillion cubic feet of gas. Drilling of 30 wells starts this summer with production due in 1998. — *Chris Barrie*

Britannia refuses Access

BRITANNIA Building Society has closed its Instant Access account to new investors. A spokeswoman said the society had faced unprecedented numbers of speculative investors since the flotation announcement from the Woolwich. The society said people had been "queuing out into the streets" for the £500 minimum needed to open a share account and qualify for a windfall should the society announce that it will become a bank. — *Cliff Jones*

Hoax turbulence at Fokker

SHARES in Dutch aeroplane maker, Fokker, hit heavy turbulence yesterday after publication of a "hoax" fax claiming that the group was running up heavier than expected losses.

The unsigned fax, on paper carrying the letterhead of the company's biggest shareholder, Daimler-Benz Aerospace, but written in English, was dismissed as a crude forgery by Fokker. Shares in Fokker plunged, losing almost 40 per cent of their value at one point yesterday, but they later recovered to 9.50 guilders. — *Mark Miller*

Paper maker faces £62m bill to shred jobs in UK and Europe

Tony May

THE Arjo Wiggins Apple group is axing 250 UK jobs in a reorganisation that will make 7 per cent of its 9,900 European manufacturing employees redundant.

The cuts will cost £62 million and, after accounting write-offs and revaluations, profit for 1995 will be down £100 million, the board said.

Analysts said that the boom in pulp and paper prices — some prices have jumped 50 per cent in 18 months — was coming to an end. Many customers for the group's top-quality glossy and tracing papers had been holding back, hoping prices would fall.

Cob Stenham, the Arjo chairman, said the group's fine papers division would stop making unprofitable commodity papers and focus on branded and other high-value products.

The group said that 180 of the jobs would go from its Lincoln factory, which is involved in thermal paper production and is due to close next year. That operation is due to be transferred to Cardiff where some 80 jobs will be lost from its paper mill.

A further 20 jobs are earmarked to go from a site in Borehamwood in Herts and the group is cutting 235 jobs in France, 150 in Belgium and 15 in Germany.

كسب من الاجل

barred
seeking
in chief

Tennis Close shave for Agassi

David Irvine in Melbourne

AT LEAST Andre Agassi can count himself a good company. He almost relinquished his title yesterday in the opening session of this year's Australian Open at Flinders Park.

The shaven-headed American emulated the escapology of such past holders as Bjorn Borg, John McEnroe, Stefan Edberg, Yannick Noah and Ivan Lendl by surviving in five sets. Twice two points from elimination in the fourth set, he beat Gaston Etlis, a 21-year-old Argentinian qualifier ranked No. 133, 3-6, 7-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-3.

Leading 6-3, 4-0, Etlis was preparing to celebrate. "I thought then, I win easy," he said. He was even contemplating how to break the news to his family in a 3am call to Buenos Aires.

Many spectators shared his optimism at that stage. Agassi, playing with his right knee heavily strapped, seemed half asleep, lacking in concentration and self-belief. Only when the server signals were blaring did he respond with the inspired tennis he is capable of.

"To be honest, I don't think I was there the whole match," said Agassi, who had damaged his knee the previous evening by knocking it against the rail on his hotel's spiral staircase. Yet at no stage did the American feel that Etlis had the match won.

"Anyway, he was getting pretty creative with finding ways to lose it," he said. "And he still had to finish it off, which you know is sometimes the most difficult part." And so it proved. Agassi survived the first crisis at 0-4 in the second set by winning the next three games before levelling at 5-5 and taking the tiebreak 7-2. Then, when on the brink at 4-5 in the fourth — and again at 3-5 in an even closer second tiebreak — it was the American whose nerve held.

Ironically it was one of Etlis's most productive strokes, the drop shot, that proved his undoing when he served for the match at 5-4. Time after time he had strangled Agassi with this shot but when it mattered, Agassi pounced on it twice. A double-fault followed and, in a flash, Etlis's best chance was gone. In the tiebreak Agassi was just too steady for him.

Agassi later explained that he had not risked his knee chasing after drop-shots on points of no significance. "But when he's trying to close it out, that's different. You have no choice."

A desperately disappointed Etlis as when can now be counted with other notable near-missers like Victor Amaya, Shlomo Glickstein, Amos Mansdorf, Mark Dickson and Olivier Delaître — managed to take away one crumb of comfort.

"I know now I can play with the big players," he said. "And that is important." Wins by six Australians, including Patrick Rafter and the 19-year-old power merchant Mark Philippoussis, delighted a record first-day crowd of 22,000 at the enlarged national tennis stadium, whose complex has been enlarged by an £11 million development of 10 new courts, two with permanent stands, and a lavish function centre.

Philippoussis, a fierce striker of the ball, needed to save two set points in a tight first set before scoring a 7-6, 6-0, 6-1 win over Nicolas Pietrangeli, the 18-year-old German who won the juniors here last year. A clash with Pete Sampras could follow later in the week.

Most women's matches were as tight as the men's. In an always tightly fought encounter Natasha Zvereva, the No. 12, lost 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 to the Russian-born Israeli Anna Smashnova, a 19-year-old who has made a habit of upsetting the odds in early Grand Slam matches.



Out of the shadows... Docherty faces the past and the press yesterday before facing Jimenez on Saturday

Docherty plays second fiddle

Kevin Mitchell

THE British bantamweight champion Drew Docherty learnt another cruel truth of his sport yesterday when he had his thunder stolen by a heavyweight. As he discussed his world title fight in Mansfield next Saturday, all the talk was about a considerably more glamorous bout between Lennox Lewis and Riddick Bowe in Las Vegas on April 20.

There will be further news of that Caesars Palace fight today when Lewis's manager Frank Maloney elaborates on the complications of a deal first mooted in New York on Sunday by Bowe's manager Rock Newman.

Warner-EBO Sports have yet to be "sorted out", Newman says. Bowe and Lewis have agreed to terms; and a Caesars Palace spokesman Phil Cooper was unaware of a deal. But there is enough speculation to send a buzz through the sport-watching division.

Docherty, meanwhile, having flown to London from Glasgow to meet the national press, spoke with quiet dignity about coping with the death of James Murray and about his challenge for the 8st 6lb belt of Puerto Rico's World Boxing Organisation champion Daniel Jimenez.

has overcome any difficulty over the past few days. "I don't think it will be any different (than before) but the experience itself on the night, that will be different."

But boxing is my livelihood. It is all I have to support my family with." His manager Tommy Gilmore conceded that Jimenez "avoids no one. He is an exceptional champion". He is indeed, having beaten Duke McKenzie and Alfred Kotey. Docherty's conqueror in four rounds a year ago; he also lasted 12 rounds with the outstanding Mexican super-bantamweight Marcos Antonio Barrera. But Docherty said: "I can't wait for the first bell."

The Glasgow fighter Davey McInnes is injured and will not fight P J Gallagher of London for the vacant British super-featherweight title in Bracknell on Friday. Gallagher will now meet the Ukrainian Rakhim Mingaleev for the vacant WBC International title.

Carlisle runners and riders with form

- 1.00 Lottian Commodore
- 2.00 The Grey Monk (nb)
- 3.00 Zuluana
- 2.30 General Wolfe
- 3.00 MONTYVALE (nb)
- 4.00 WMA Talsner

Chancellor Minkers, Otago Cup (good to soft in places)
Form in handicaps after several weeks since latest N.A. ending

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101 00-50 BE BRAVE (10) 5m of £2,500
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American Football Cocky Cowboys swagger into Super Bowl

Mark Tran in New York

THE Dallas Cowboys are on their way to the Super Bowl for the third time in four years, and they are swaggering.

"We're not going to the Super Bowl," the Cowboys wide receiver Michael Irvin declared. "We're going home. We let somebody borrow our house last year. Now we're moving back in."

After beating the Green Bay Packers 38-7 on Sunday to win the National Conference title, the Cowboys are heavy favourites for Super Bowl XXX against the Pittsburgh Steelers, who barely held off the Indianapolis Colts, the surprise team of the season, 20-16 in the American Conference championship game.

The Cowboys may be cocky but they have the talent to back up their big mouths. The American Conference's long Super Bowl drought is set to continue in the Arizona desert on January 28. Not since the Los Angeles Raiders upset the Washington Redskins in 1984 has an American Conference team won a Super Bowl.

The Packers have had to endure a similar history of frustration against the Cowboys, losing their last five games at Texas Stadium. They came this time with a more rounded team, a tougher attitude and Brett Favre, the NFL's Most Valuable Player, at quarterback.

After a shaky start Favre kept Green Bay in the game for about three quarters despite the lack of any running game. But then he threw an interception with 12 minutes left that allowed the Cowboys to pull away for victory.

Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin are as fine an offensive team as I've ever seen assembled," said the Packers coach Mike Holmgren. "And they were on."

Barry Switzer also earned a belated share of the credit. The Dallas head coach is perceived to be deficient in knowledge of the NFL and tactical flexibility but he may be learning fast.

"We're in back-to-back NFC championship games and everyone says the guy can't coach," Irvin said. "Will you please give this man a little credit?"

The Packers hardly saw the ball in the first half but Favre made the most of his opportunities. After failing to connect with his first six attempts he found Robert Brooks for a 73-yard touchdown pass. In the second quarter he released a perfectly timed pass to the tight end Keith Jackson for a smooth 24-yard touchdown. And after Brooks caught another Favre touchdown pass in the third quarter Green Bay led 27-24.

By the fourth quarter, however, the heat and the Cowboys' huge offensive line had worn down Green Bay's defence, which had spent an inordinate amount of time on the field in the first half. Dallas retook the lead with a grinding 14-play, 90-yard drive that ended with Smith darting in from five yards.

The Pack were moving smoothly on the next series when Favre tried to force a pass down the right side. Dallas retook the lead when that was picked off by Larry Brown. Even the Packers realised the gig was up. They had no answer as Aikman, Smith and Irvin moved the Cowboys relentlessly towards the end zone. Smith finished off the drive with a 16-yard touchdown run.

Smith finished with 150 yards and three touchdowns. The Packers gained a total of 48 yards on the ground. "I'm glad it struck midnight," Irvin said. "Cinderella, go home."

Gil Haskell, the Green Bay Packers' wide receiver coach, was said to be in serious condition with a cracked skull sustained during Sunday's game. The coach was knocked over on the sideline when the Dallas safety Darren Woodson and the Green Bay wide receiver Robert Brooks crashed into him.

Racing Penny drops over tax cut

David Hadert

AGREEMENT has been reached at the eleventh hour on how racing should use the one per cent reduction in General Betting Duty that Chancellor Kenneth Clarke announced in the November Budget.

It was made clear following the Budget by Treasury officials that the cut must be passed directly to punters, which will result in them paying nine pence in the pound reduction for their pleasure instead of the present 10.

But the Chancellor's ruling that the tax cut must benefit the racing industry, the bookies and greyhound racing set off an instant debate on how the expected increase in betting turnover should be passed on to the various parties.

The big three bookmakers, Hill, Coral and Ladbrokes, put up a proposal to give up 15p for every £100 of turnover, but the smaller bookies would not come into line, saying they could only afford to contribute 8p for every £100.

An outline agreement had to be presented to the Treasury before the Finance Bill was debated in the Commons yesterday. Fervent last-ditch talks continued between the British Horseracing Board and the Bookmakers' Committee well into yesterday before a compromise was reached.

The agreement will now be presented to the Levy Board for ratification as soon as possible. Only then will an announcement be made of how the tax cut will be sliced up.

Richard Dunwoody was yesterday rewarded for his sure handling of One Man in the King George VI Tripleprint Chase with the ride on the grey for the rest of the season.

He has been handed the reins on jump racing's most exciting performer following discussions between Gordon Hales and trainer Gordon Richards.

Hales, who had indicated the ride on the Man would return to his usual partner, Tony Dobbin, said: "Following his win in the King George, where One Man started favourite, we now find that our horse has been made favourite for the Gold Cup."

"As in the King George, this will be One Man's first Gold Cup and both Gordon and I agree that it would be wise to retain the services of Richard Dunwoody whose experience of having ridden in the race on many previous occasions could prove invaluable."

"It is now possible that One Man may not have a race prior to the Festival as Gordon has been offered the facilities of some of the northern courses to help in One Man's preparation."

"Should One Man have a race prior to the Gold Cup, the most likely venue would be Cheltenham on January 27 to give the horse another opportunity over the Gold Cup fences."

Dunwoody feels that One Man will get the Gold Cup trip, saying: "He was not stopping at Sandown, but needed the outing. I think he will stay all right. I couldn't wish for a better ride."

Montelado is 11-8 favourite for Paddy Power, the Irish bookmaker, for next Sunday's AIG Europe Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown.

Pat Flynn, the nine-year-old's trainer, said: "He runs unless we meet some unforeseen problem."

"While he is a better horse in the spring, and I could be a little happier with him at the moment, he needs a run over hurdles before Cheltenham and Sunday is the obvious target."

Montelado, who has suffered some shins, has not run over hurdles since finishing ninth behind Alderbrook in the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham last March.

Danioli, who sustained a broken off-side fetlock when winning the Martell Andre Hurdle last April, is also expected to be in the line-up.

Results

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Cricket

Mike Selvey on the bitter retaliation of the fast bowler whose South Africa tour produced only humiliation

Malcolm delivers a wide

DEVON Malcolm came to South Africa with high expectations. Two years ago he put the fear of God into the South African batsmen at The Oval and took nine wickets for 57 runs, figures that have been bettered only five times in the 118-year history of Test cricket.

He wanted to do so again but this time in his own country: a black man bowling England to victory in South Africa. Instead it all ended in tears. Malcolm played in only two Tests — one in Johannesburg, where he took six wickets in the match, and the last of the series, and surely the last of his career, in Cape Town.

Here at Newlands his career turned full circle. A new-ball spell that possibly cost England the match brought derision from the crowd and was followed by a fumbled piece of fielding that saw the ball speed through his legs to the boundary.

For most of the tour Malcolm, by his own admission, has felt unwanted, ill-treated and scorned by the England management. It was the new legend underlined when Raymond Illingworth and the bowling coach Peter Lever humiliatingly ordered him to the nets. At issue, chiefly, has been Malcolm's approach to bowling and bowling advice. Malcolm has a flaw whereby he falls away at the delivery stride and trots off at an angle afterwards. Illingworth and Lever suggested that he made a minor adjustment that would improve both his efficiency and his accuracy.

This advice was soon media-enhanced into a demand for a changed action. It was no such thing any more than a tweak to a golfer's grip is the equivalent of ordering Nick Faldo to rebuild his swing. But this is also a story of the irresistible force and the immovable object.

Illingworth is a bully and a stubborn one at that. His captaincy of Yorkshire, Leicestershire and England has afforded no time for softies. Test cricket is a hard school and he wants men of iron: anyone who does not conform to his ideals can be dismissed out of hand.

Nor does he shy from making such statements public, as those who attended a lunch with him in London 14 months ago, where he systematically undermined his captain from a distance of 12,000 miles on the eve of the first Ashes Test in Brisbane, will testify. It was shocking.

So, when Malcolm could not or would not respond to the advice of the coaches, he was dismissed as "a cricketer without a brain" and as "not having a cricket brain".

Derogatory statements about players are bandied about in dressing-rooms the world over — but not in the public prints, and in that regard Malcolm had every right to feel aggrieved. More humiliation and for a black man in South Africa at that. It was rank bad management but was it malicious? And is Malcolm not as stubborn as Illingworth?

Malcolm does not take kindly to criticism, yet Illingworth could argue that flattery does not work either. Malcolm's bowling at The Oval apparently followed a fearsome bollocking from Atherton, and it was the now legendary crack on the head while batting that fired him up. Atherton, himself a belligerent man, intolerant at times, is known to have been frustrated by Malcolm's intransigence for some while. It all appears to have been six of one and half a dozen of the other.

Malcolm has received much public sympathy during the tour but perhaps has now sacrificed some of that with suggestions of racism that have no evidence to back them. "I have to ask, would this have happened if I had been a white bowler? Malcolm writes in a tabloid newspaper. The answer, knowing the individuals, is very much "Yes" if the circumstances were the same.

If his treatment has been shabby, then to go public himself with such remarks is equally so. Nelson Mandela has been Malcolm's inspiration on this tour but now, at the end, he appears to have forgotten this. Mandela knows how to keep his counsel and his dignity — but then does he have an agent?



Happier days... Malcolm celebrates his nine for 57 at The Oval. PHOTOGRAPH NORMAN LOMAX

Soccer

Premier League may by-pass 'unjust' Uefa

Martin Thorpe THE Premier League has become so disillusioned with Uefa that it is to form an association of top European Union clubs to by-pass the official governing body.

The clubs' long-held frustration was brought to a head by Uefa's muddled response to the Bosman ruling that has been compounded in England by Uefa's reaction to the fielding of weakened sides in last summer's Interotto Cup.

There is deep-seated concern within the Premier League at Uefa's decision to dock England a Uefa Cup place as a new European Cup and Tottenham Hotspur from European competition for a year.

"We believe this is a serious injustice," said the Premier League spokesman Mike Lee. The Premier League and the Football Association are considering an appeal against the loss of the Uefa Cup place while representatives of Tottenham and Wimbledon met with the FA yesterday to formalise appeals against their bans which will be heard in Geneva on January 26.

The two clubs believe they should not have been punished for fielding under-strength sides in the Interotto Cup because Uefa had previously given them permission to do so.

It is understood that this assurance came from a head general secretary Gerard Aigner in a series of phone calls with the FA and Premier League.

However, the Uefa press spokesman Massimo Gonella argued yesterday that no such permission would have been given as it contradicts Uefa rules.

He also said that after the first round of Interotto Cup matches Uefa wrote to Tottenham, Wimbledon and Sheffield Wednesday warning that, if they continued to field under-strength sides, they would face punishment.

Wednesday consequently fielded first-team players and, as a result, escaped with a reprimand by Uefa. However, they too will be lodging an appeal.

If the clubs lose their appeals, it will only increase the Premier League's determination to take up the European Commission's recent invitation to form an association of top EU clubs that by-passes Uefa.

The Commission, too, has been annoyed at what it sees as Uefa's obstructive and unhelpful stance on Bosman and, by encouraging the Premier League to form an independent group of top EU clubs, is seeking to negotiate direct with the "cool face".

Stressing the seriousness of the invitation, the Premier League's chief executive Rick Farry said: "We are happy to take the lead in this and we do regard it as a significant development."

The top clubs inside the EU will initially air their grievances with Uefa at a meeting on February 7, the chief of which is a refusal to accept the three-plus-two foreigner rule in European club competition. Meanwhile Premier League clubs will almost certainly vote today not to enter this summer's Interotto Cup.

FA set to give Chapman appeal the elbow

Paul Weaver on a weekend incident that saw the on-loan striker fall foul of law changes

THE Football Association last night warned Leeds United and Lee Chapman that their appeal against Saturday's red-card incident could be in vain following a series of elbowing offences.

The striker, on loan for a month, was sent off by Paul Danson during his side's 3-0 win over West Ham for elbowing the defender Mark Reeper. He said yesterday: "I didn't mean to elbow him. You have to use your arms to get leverage when you jump and that is what I was doing. I would never do something like that deliberately."

Chapman's plea did not impress the FA's disciplinary secretary Alan Wilkes, who said yesterday: "The law has changed this season. In Law 12, concerning fouls and misconduct, the word 'deliberate' has been taken out, except where it applies to hand-ball. Technically it no longer has to be deliberate if a player does it accidentally. It can be sent off for being reckless."

The FA is also conscious of the recent escalation in elbowing incidents. Earlier this season QPR's David Bardsley was sent off and last week Newcastle's David Ginola received the red card following a clash with Nigel Winterburn of Arsenal.

Newcastle were in the news again during Sunday's tele-

vised game against Coventry when Robert Lee was elbowed by Paul Williams and the manager Kevin Keegan quipped: "He looks like he has a golf ball in his mouth."

Lee, who thought he had broken his cheekbone, said yesterday: "I'm very lucky. It's swollen but I'll be OK. I've been given the X-ray all-clear and that's a relief." But in defence of Williams he said: "He didn't mean it. He was sorry at the time and kept apologising through the game."

Elbowing is one of the most dangerous examples of foul play. Gary Mabbutt's career sought an experienced replacement for Tony Yeboah and Phil Masinga, who are away on international duty.

Wilkinson is so convinced of Chapman's innocence that he will consider sending Danson a video of the incident with a request to change his mind.

The TV pundit and former Liverpool defender Alan Hansen, however, will not be supporting Chapman's appeal. He claims that the striker regularly raised an elbow in challenges during his 11-club, 17-year career.

In Match of the Day on Saturday he said: "Chapman always used to do that. He must have given me about five black eyes when I played against him."



Scars of battle... Uzzell after his Blissett clash

Rugby League

Bramley pull out the biggest plum

Paul Fitzpatrick

BRAMLEY were given the most thankless task of the fourth round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup yesterday when they were drawn away to Wigan, who have not been beaten in the competition since 1987.

There is not much chance of an upset here, but the remaining amateur clubs, Thatch Heath and West Hull, were given cause for optimism.

Thatch Heath, convincing winners at Chorley on Sunday, will travel to Rochdale and West Hull, winners at Highfield, were drawn at home to York. With Hull and Hull KR also drawn at home, Huddersfield will be in for a busy weekend.

It seems certain that West Hull will play at the Boulevard, possibly on the Friday night, and Gary Lumb, one of the club's joint coaches, said they would be disappointed if the crowd was under 5,000.

There is no argument about it of the round, Castleford, who won the tournament in 1966 before Wigan began their long run of domination, meet St Helens, gallant losers to Wigan in Saturday's Regal Trophy final.

The Castleford game was the natural choice for the BBC cameras. The other all-Championship clash is between Oldham, the last side to beat Wigan — 42 games ago — and Warrington, who are now looking to the Cup to rescue

what has been a grim end to the centenary season. David Young's hope of playing rugby union with Sale in the off-season has been dashed by his club, Salford.

Salford's chairman John Wilkinson said yesterday: "Nobody from Salford will be going to Sale and all talks between the clubs have broken down."

"I am disappointed because I had agreed a deal with Sale but I am a contracted Salford player and will be having fur-

ther talks with my chairman this week," said Young. A decision in the federal court case between the Australian Rugby League and Rupert Murdoch's News Limited is not expected for at least two more weeks.

Nobody from Salford will be going to Sale and all talks between the clubs have broken down.

"I am disappointed because I had agreed a deal with Sale but I am a contracted Salford player and will be having fur-

Pools Forecast

Table with columns for FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP, ENGLAND LEAGUE, and SECOND DIVISION, listing teams and their fixtures.

Results

Table with columns for Soccer, American Football, Basketball, Chess, and Cricket, listing match results.

Teamtalk: The Independent News Reports Service. Call 0891 33 77+. Lists various sports news services and their contact information.

Venables to give names and dates

David Lacey

WHILE the Football Association's latest panel of head-hunters begins the task of appointing the next England coach, the FA's chief executive will today announce a list of names which effectively starts the ball rolling for the European Championship.

Terry Venables will then fly to Warsaw with Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, to assist in drawing up a list of fixtures which will be important to his successor's chances of qualifying for the next World Cup.

England will not resume their series of warm-ups for Euro '96 until March 27, when Bulgaria visit Wembley, followed by Croatia in April and Hungary in May. But Venables needs to see his players before then and has arranged two squad sessions, the first due at Bishop Cleeve next week.

Venables's decision to bring the three-day get-together forward by 24 hours, with the players now reporting on Sunday evening, means those involved in West Ham v Manchester United on Monday night will not be available.

In Warsaw tomorrow Kelly and Venables can expect some hard bargaining when they sit down with representatives from Poland, Italy, Georgia and Moldova to thrash out a fixture list for England's World Cup qualifying group. It is not simply a matter of dates.

England, for example, will be eager to delay their opening qualifier until October to give the next national coach a chance of

Leeds swoop for their fifth foreign player

Ian Ross

LEEDS yesterday became the latest club to exploit the recent Bosman ruling when they welcomed to Elland Road the former German international Uli Borowski.

The 33-year-old defender has joined from Werder Bremen and is likely to remain on trial until the end of the season. Borowski, available for permanent transfer at £200,000, had been expected to sign for Manchester City after talks at the weekend.

A sixth foreigner may well join Borowski, Tony Yeboah, Tomas Brkljacic, Phil Masinga and Lucas Radebe at Leeds in the next few days. Wilkinson hopes to take on the Australian international centre-back Tony Popovic from Sydney Croatia.

Everton and Liverpool are to be given the freedom of the city in a special ceremony on February 1, in recognition of their success and contribution to Merseyside life.

Television evidence will be used for the first time in Scottish FA disciplinary cases from the start of next season. The full SFA council yesterday voted unanimously for its introduction.

Langton dies at age of 77 BOBBY LANGTON, a winger who played 11 times for England in the Forties, has died aged 77. He played more than 100 games for Blackburn in a war-interrupted career from 1937 until he joined Preston in 1948. He moved to Bolton a year later and played in the 1963 FA Cup final against Blackburn before retiring from football for three more seasons.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom right of the page.

Rugby Union

Robert Armstrong examines the depth of support for the new RFU chairman while, below, two Guardian writers give contrasting views on Sunday's counter-revolution

Brittle warned of breakaway by top clubs

TONY RUSS, Leicester's director of rugby, yesterday warned that England's leading clubs could break away from the Rugby Football Union if less progressive members try to apply the brakes to professionalism.

Brittle's advocacy of a long-term business plan for the RFU and promised that his club would aim to work positively with the new man on the job.

shortly draw up a written constitution to be forwarded to Twickenham for official approval.

their throats. At the moment the RFU is wagging the dog," said Quinn. "We welcome his outlook on a business plan - we are already well down that road at Bath. It is the way the clubs are going and it is the right way."

work with whoever is elected and we will do that," said Quinn. "We welcome his outlook on a business plan - we are already well down that road at Bath. It is the way the clubs are going and it is the right way."

part the executive committee have furnished Brittle with a copy of his terms of reference as chairman, which include the obligation "to form with the executive a cohesive strategic plan for the future of the union."

of Man, must make himself available on a day-to-day basis to the sub-committee chairmen and advisory panels. In effect, he has an unpaid full-time job on his hands. His main policy aims are:

need to improve playing standards will have priority. ● To encourage RFU committees to bring constancy and a sense of urgency to the decision-making process.

FOR: We Old Farts are rugby's fundament

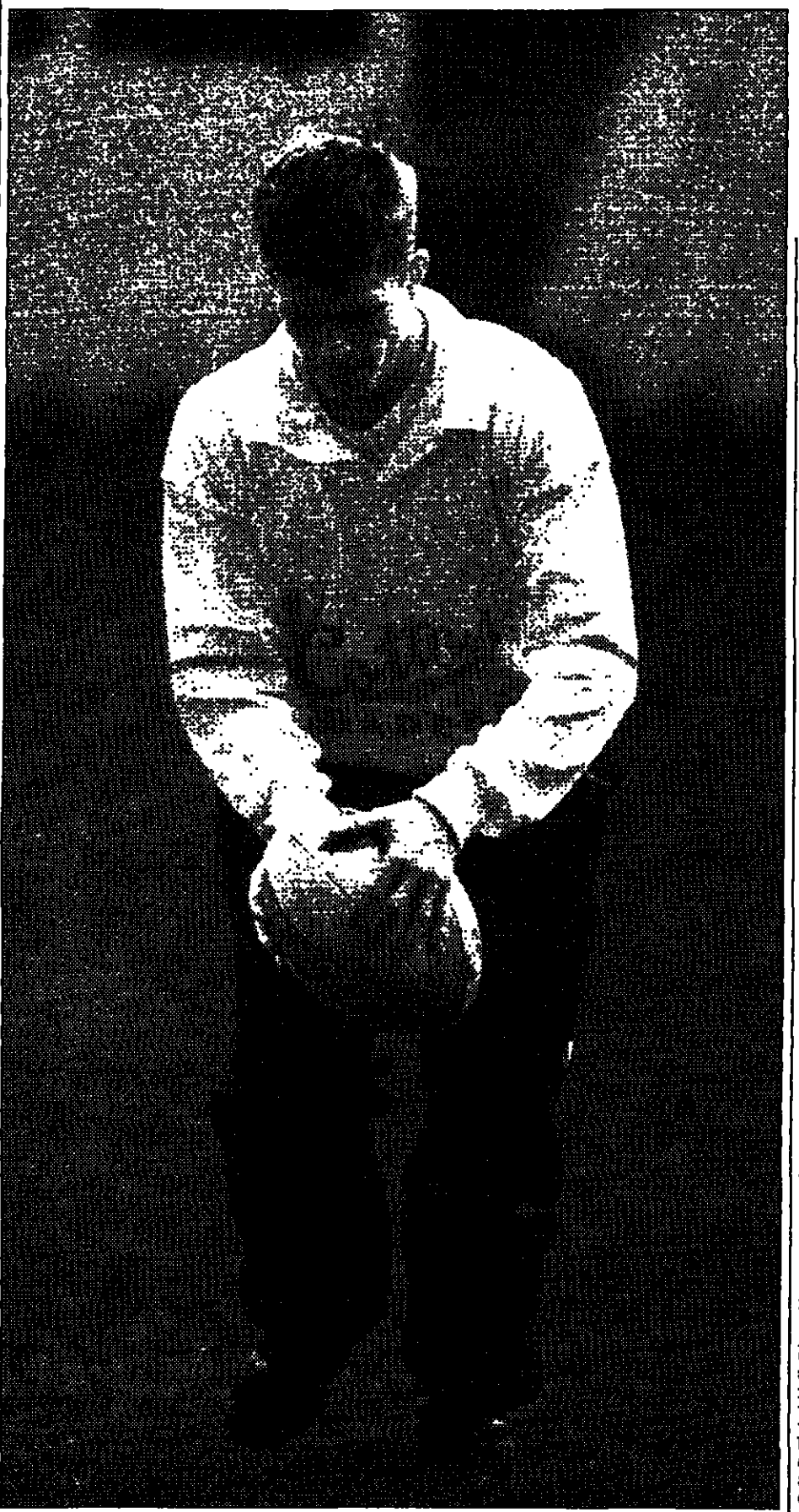
David Davies on why the game's foot soldiers rebelled

SPEAK as an old fart. When Will Curlew-Lip Carling tossed that phrase contemptuously into the public domain it rang a bell, not just with his sugaring cronies but with those at whom it was aimed.

terms that, while they may wish the game to go professional, the huge majority of what are still their constituents do not.

bunch of lads who pay out, say, £2.50 match fee every week plus whatever the team bus costs. It is quite another if they are being paid.

Youth is given its head in the first international of 1996



In good hands... Arwel Thomas prepares for his Wales debut against Italy

Pocket genius picks up the poisoned chalice

Robert Armstrong on Wales' high hopes of Arwel Thomas

ARWEL THOMAS is not the youngest fly-half to make his international debut for Wales in the Nineties - Neil Jenkins at 19 established that benchmark - but the Bristol player is perhaps the most precocious talent to be handed the poisoned chalice of the No. 10 shirt since the golden Seventies.

10st 12lb), deftly stepping inside an on-rushing flanker or challenging bullish centres like a tiny matador, because he must survive and prosper in representative rugby.

AGAINST: A final futile blazer flourish

Frank Keating on rugger's implausible revolutionaries

IT WAS a tragicomic débacle all right when the committee of the RFU was ambushed, trussed up and held to ransom by its own backbones in Birmingham on Sunday.

or so senior clubs breaking away from the RFU. Already all of them are tooled up for all professionalism next season.

Saturday afternoon and that his wife and daughter-in-law made the clubhouse tea.

Golf: Montgomerie has seven-week handicap in the money race

DAVID DAVIES COLIN MONTGOMERIE, seemingly European No. 1 in perpetuity, is likely to miss the first seven weeks of the 1996 season.

US Masters at Augusta. Liselotte Neumann, the Swede who plays in America, gave Europe's Solheim Cup hopes the biggest possible boost on Sunday when she won the prestigious Tournament of Champions, in Orlando, Florida, by 11 shots.

Sailing: IRYU after 11th Olympic class

BOB FISHER THE International Yacht Racing Union is planning dramatic changes to the Olympic regatta for the 2000 Games in Sydney.

Sport in brief: Rugby Union

West Hartlepool, the Courage League One's bottom club, still without a win in 10 games, have appointed Cardiff's former Wales fly-half Mark Ring as player-coach.

Table Tennis: Syed in line for wild card spot

RICHARD JAGO MATTHEW SYED, the England No. 1 in the Olympic Games after all even though his thrilling performances just failed to earn a place at Atlanta from the qualifying competition in Manchester on Sunday.

Ice Hockey: Sir John's team cannot call Newcastle home

VIC BATSCHELDER THE Sheffield Steelers' 9-3 victory over Durham Wasps ensured the winners remain top of the Premier Division this week. The defeat was not the only bad news for the Sir John Hall-owned Wasps.

Although the Warriors are bottom of the Premier Division, they appear closer to Superleague entry. "If one of the criteria for membership is possession of an arena and a healthy financial situation, then we are in the right position," said the spokesman.

Montgomerie did, though, play six fewer events than his fellow Scot Sam Torrance, who he beat for the No. 1 position last year.

rate
chiatric patients
11/3

Agassi survives a first-round scare, page 13
Clubs grant Brittle breathing space, page 15

Premier League plans to by-pass Uefa, page 14
Montgomerie delays his tee-off, page 15

SportsGuardian

ENGLAND PACE BOWLER FACES HEAVY FINE FOR ATTACK ON ILLINGWORTH

Malcolm on the carpet

Mike Selvey from Durban on the high cost of 'race' article

DEVON Malcolm, the Jamaica-born England and Derbyshire fast bowler, faces a possible £10,000 fine from the Test and County Cricket Board and suspension from county cricket following the publication yesterday of an article in which he criticised Raymond Illingworth, chairman of the England selectors. His Test career also can be deemed to be finished.

The article, one of a series appearing in the Daily Express, alleges that Illingworth went out of his way to discourage and humiliate him during the Test series in South Africa. Malcolm, who last year was awarded a substantial sum in an out-of-court settlement with Wisden Cricket Monthly, which published an allegedly racist article, appears to have suggested that Illingworth was racially motivated. He said: "I have to ask: would this have happened if I had been a white bowler?"

Yesterday Illingworth, newly arrived here for tomorrow's fourth one-day international, was keeping his cards close to his chest. "I've got enough on my plate without worrying about this," he said. "I will not comment other than to say we tried everything we could to help him. He's just very stubborn."

Although the England party is in South Africa for another week, Malcolm, not required for the limited-overs matches, was one of a number of players who returned home early. The terms of his touring contract expressly forbid him from putting his name to articles, unless first sanctioned by the board, but the TCCB heard of the intended article and tried to discourage Malcolm at least until the team returned home. He ignored the advice and broke



The way they were... Illingworth watches as Devon Malcolm tries to convince the chairman he has a cricketing brain

his contract for a sum believed to be about £10,000. Given that he ignored a warning, leniency is unlikely. But yesterday the TCCB was quick to dispel accusations of racism. "That is an offensive remark he has made," said a TCCB spokesman, Richard Little. "We always pick the best possible players and take no account of any other element."

But Malcolm stuck to his guns last night. "I only asked a question," he told BBC Radio 5 Live. "As the only black man there were a lot of things I had to do and the manager could have given me a lot more support."

Little confirmed yesterday that the board had not seen the article prior to its publication and therefore did not clear it. "Devon is under a contractual agreement with the board and he knows he has infringed it," he said. "We will take any action we think necessary in our own time."

The Derbyshire secretary Reg Taylor was "surprised" to read of Malcolm's reference to colour. "I've never heard of that being an issue with the England team," he said, "and I don't know why he mentioned it."

Malcolm, who will be 33 next month, played only two Tests this winter, taking six wickets at a cost of 32.50 runs each. He left England in October full of optimism but became involved in a public disagreement with Illingworth and the bowling coach Peter Lever over their attempts to tinker with his run-up and action. Lever and Illingworth accused Malcolm of being a non-entity and of not having a cricketing brain.

Malcolm, who was at Derbyshire's headquarters, retorted: "It is patronising to call me a non-entity. I've taken 100 wickets for England and loved playing."

It all ends in tears, page 14

'I have to ask — would this have happened if I had been a white bowler?'

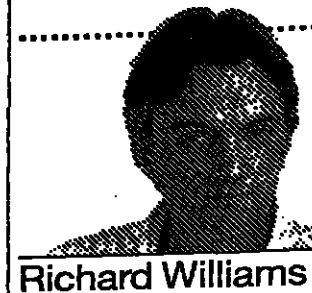
DAVID LAWRENCE
Former England fast bowler
If there is even a trace of racism in the relationship between Raymond Illingworth and Devon Malcolm, then the TCCB should abandon thoughts of fining Devon and investigate it immediately. It is sad that the question of colour has arisen but the history of this country makes it inevitable. Illingworth is a hard, out-and-out Yorkshireman and I can't forget that the worst racist abuse I suffered was on Yorkshire grounds. Devon was a scapegoat for the team's failures. He needed motivating, not slating in public.

DON MOSEY
Illingworth's biographer; retired author and broadcaster
What screaming hypocrisy! Devon took action against Wisden Cricket Monthly for bringing up the issue of colour — and now he's doing exactly the same thing. It is so out of character. Someone must have stirred him up. It was an uncompromising captain on tour in the best possible sense. Players who give him 100 per cent receive his total support, whoever they are. If he gives anyone a rough ride it is solely for the good of the team. To remotely attribute it to racism is preposterous.

JOHN SNOW
Former England fast bowler; influential member of England's Ashes-winning side, led by Illingworth, in 1970.
Raymond gave me a few rollovers. It's nothing new. He once dropped me against the West Indies because he thought I wasn't trying. I reckoned it wasn't the sort of pitch where bowling flat out worked in your favour but I decided my attitude wasn't right. He has always been a hard taskmaster.

Interviews by David Hopps

Team games turned to blood sports



Richard Williams

WHAT a shambles. Terry Venables on the retreat amid foetid gusts of scandal. Jack Rowell, apparently soured after less than two years in the job, preparing for the match of the season by broadcasting another list of pre-emptive excuses. Ray Illingworth, with a record of two defeats and a draw in three Test series since he took charge, enduring a public excoriation by a player whose confidence he destroyed.

Football, rugby, cricket: the games we teach our children supposedly as a template for life, a lesson in how to rub along together in victory or defeat. Yet who would want to hold up the Football Association, the Rugby Football Union or the Test and County Cricket Board as models for grown-up behaviour?

To see England's leadership tearing itself apart in one of the three major team sports would be regrettable. To watch it happening in two of them simultaneously would be cause for concern. But to have all three in distress at once looks like something more than a coincidence.

DAVID GRAVENEY
General secretary, Cricketers' Association; England selector
As an England selector over the past year I've found no substance for any implications that Ily's decisions or behaviour are racially motivated. But I feel sympathy for Devon. The magazine article which suggested that non-white cricketers were less committed to England was a sinister piece of journalism and the courts quite rightly found in his favour. I thought such feelings had been banished from cricket for ever. Devon was a hero in South Africa but public criticism undermined him.

ANOTHER outbreak of navel-gazing will no doubt reveal parallels with other aspects of English life — and could one honestly say that the Archbishop of Canterbury, presiding over the last rites of the established church, or the Home Secretary, passing the buck for the prisons, or even the head of state herself are showing a massively greater sense of responsibility or strategic awareness than Venables, Rowell and Illingworth? In which case the apocalypse must be upon us.

On the other hand, those of a more relaxed disposition will ask, so what else is new? Look at it this way: only a couple of years ago the positions currently occupied by Illingworth, Rowell and Venables were held by Ted Dexter, Geoff Cooke and Graham Taylor — the bewitched, the bothered and the bewildered, all men of real achievement in

previous incarnations but each reduced to despair by the responsibility of managing a national team. We make a huge fuss over their selection. And having installed them, we expect a miracle this season, please. A manager who takes a long-term view at the expense of the immediate future, as the hapless Dexter did when he sat uncomplainingly — and for minimal reward — on numberless committees in an effort to alter the deep structure of English cricket, will find himself "harpooned and lampooned", in his own phrase, when a few early defeats do not swiftly turn into world domination.

UNFORTUNATELY the game of humiliation seems to have become a sport in its own right, a battle between the tabloid newspapers. There is now a small group of men known to have declined jobs for which they are well qualified, motivated by a justifiable unwillingness to expose themselves to a level of personal scrutiny that no one should be asked to endure this side of heaven's gate.

Perhaps the spirit of gleeful vengeance with which we greet failure has something to do with the fact that these are games we taught the world, and no amount of contrary evidence seems able to dissuade us from an assumption of permanent national superiority. This is where the idea of sport as a metaphor for the national condition really holds up.

There certainly does not seem to be a formula to help those charged with appointing our leaders. Background, experience, whether of life or sport, and geography appear to have little influence. We've tried the officer class (Dexter) and the NCOs (Venables).

We've tried people so involved in their sport that they appear never to have entertained a thought beyond it from the outside world (Illingworth) and those with a record of significant achievement in Real Life (Rowell). We've tried people who were brilliant players and others who played the game mostly in their heads. We've tried north (Cooke) and south (Venables again) and somewhere in between (Taylor).

It is hard to avoid the thought that there is a connection here with the unreal amounts of money now flooding into these three sports, the sort of sudden prosperity that distorts perspectives and expectations. Which is why, in 1996, our true national game is led and symbolised not by Venables or Rowell or Illingworth but by Anthea Turner.

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Guardian Crossword No 20,550

Set by Gordius

- Across**
- 1 Pilots surprise church inclined to bury head in the sand (7)
 - 5 Poor sap has difficulty coming to the point (7)
 - 9 Said to be rough diamond, perhaps (5)
 - 10 Victor certainly, William possibly (9)
 - 11 I saw to the press review of entertainment (5-5,4)
 - 13 Title of 20, age about 10 (4)
 - 14 Penalty clause? (8)
 - 17 One last hope, almost, for treatment (8)
 - 18 Stove right for making jelly (4)
 - 21 Giver of lasting fellowship to a criminal on Good Friday in advance (8,6)
 - 23 Vessel in race qualified to hold record (9)
- Down**
- 24 Hates to move in a hurry (5)
 - 25 Dons wear as Doctor of Letters? (7)
 - 26 What's left on bed of river in fluctuating tides (7)
- Down**
- 1 Curse emanating from boathouse (4)
 - 2 Rely on getting home for tea without a caterer (5,5,5)
 - 3 Damage caused by one politician broadcasting? (8)
 - 4 The ace of witches (6)
 - 5 Girl gets a drink, treated finally, like the glass (8)
 - 6 Hindrance in the way of a game (8)
 - 7 Lacking male parent she is gone up the spout (15)
 - 8 Holy one undone by admitting guilt, and the fruit thereof (10)
- Solution tomorrow**
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